



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

February 2011

**IRTS AGM Weekend
Limerick
March 26/27th
See inside for details**



**2010 DX Year End Review by
Joe Reisert, W1JR
on page 8**

Society Officers 2010/2011

President:	Paul Martin EI2CA	087-2523908	<i>paul@comma.ie</i>
Vice President:	Seamus McCague EI8BP	01-2988045	<i>smccague@eircom.net</i>
Hon. Vice-Presidents:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie</i>
	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	<i>ei4bz@eircom.net</i>
Auditors:	Brendan De hÓra, EI3GV; Brendan Lynch, EI6GA		
Secretary:	Ger McNamara EI4GXB	087-2532512	<i>ei4gxb@gmail.co</i>
Treasurer:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
P.R.O.:	Seamus McCague EI8BP	01-2988045	<i>smccague@eircom.net</i>
AREN Co-Ordinator:	John Ronan EI7IG	086 8167310	<i>ei7ig@aren.ie</i>
Awards Committee:	Peter Grant EI4HX (Chair)	087-7944779	<i>ei4hxperimental@eircom.net</i>
	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX, Pat O'Connor EI9HX.		
ComReg Liaison:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie</i>
Contest Manager:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	<i>thoscaffrey@hotmail.com</i>
EMC:	Brendan Minish EI6IZ	086-2501832	<i>ei6iz.Brendan@gmail.com</i>
EuroCom:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
Gaeilge:	Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK	0404-67658	<i>ei7gk@esatclear.ie</i>
External Awards/WEIC:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.</i>
IARU:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie</i>
IARUMS:	Ger McNamara EI4GXB	087-2532512	<i>ei4gxb@gmail.co</i>
IRTS Shop:	Peter Grant EI4HX	087-7944779	<i>ei4hxperimental@eircom.net</i>
Membership Officer:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	<i>memrecords@irts.ie</i>
Morse Testing Co-Ord.:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
Chief Morse Tester:	Dan Lloyd EI3AE	01-8382774	<i>danielloyd@eircom.net.</i>
P.O. Box 462:	Michael McNamara EI2CL	01-8372493	<i>ei2clmike@eircom.net</i>
Publications Editor:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	<i>ei4bz@eircom.net</i>
Publications Distribution	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
Radio News Editor:	Aidan Noone	085-7100511	<i>newsteam@irts.ie</i>
Repeater Co-ordinator:	John McCarthy EI8JA	087-9437500	<i>ei8ja@eircom.net</i>
Theory Examination:	Sean Nolan EI7CD (Sub-Committee Chairman)	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.</i>
VHF Manager:	Trevor Dunne EI2GLB	087-2217829	<i>ei2glb@hotmail.com</i>
WAI Awards Manager:	Tom Rea EI2GP	093-35523	<i>tomrea@eircom.net</i>
WAI Book Sales:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	<i>ei4bz@eircom.net</i>
Website Editor:	Seamus McCague EI8BP	01-2988045	<i>smccague@eircom.net</i>
Website Designer::	Gerry Kavanagh EI8DRB	087-7996336	<i>pagemaster@irts.ie</i>

QSL Bureau

QSL Inwards Manager:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	<i>patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com</i>
QSL Outwards Manager:	Tony Baldwin EI8JK		<i>ei8jk@amsat.org</i>
Incoming QSL Sub Managers:			
0/1/Calls & SWL:	John Browne EI7FAB.		
2 Series Calls:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	<i>thoscaffrey@hotmail.com</i>
3 Series Calls:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	<i>patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com</i>
4 Series Calls:	Jim Ryan EI3DP	021-4632365	<i>pamasada11@yahoo.ie</i>
5 Series Calls	Terry Webb EI4GLB	087-6199943	<i>terencewebb@hotmail.com</i>
6 Series Calls:	Rory Hinchy EI4DJB		<i>rinchy@iee.org</i>
7 Series Calls	Roland Byrne EI4GYB		<i>rolandbyrne@ireland.com</i>
8 Series Calls:	Brian Canning EI8IU	086-2514822	<i>brianei8iu@eircom.net</i>
9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	083-3317940	<i>ei9fbb@oceanfree.net</i>

News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday					
Dublin	1100	7.055	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Roland EI4GYB, Ger EI4GXB Francis EI5GOB	
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS	
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK	
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100	
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450	-	70.375 - 50.450	
			FM	John EI7IQ, Padraig EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB	
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB	
Monday					
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN	
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB	
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD	
Tuesday					
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB	

Contents

Society Officers & Committee Members:	2
Notice of AGM & Awards Nominations	3
SEARG AGM Notice: Dundalk Classes	3
Limerick AGM Report	4
SDR Classes: Fingal R.C Venue	4
Geopark Stations: EJ4ALE in IOTA	5
Fermanagh Repeater	5
AREN Financial Report	6
Pictures from Cork Dinner	7
HF Happenings with Dave EI9FBB	8/13
Swiss Marconi Museum in Salvan	13
Above the Horizon with EI8JB	14
The 4m Metre Band with EI4DIB	15
160m Receiving Loop by EI8GGB	16
Worked ITU Zones Award	17
What & Who is the ITU?	18
Shannon Basin Club AGM	19
The HX Files - ATV with EI2HX	20/21
Contest Calendar: News bands in Iceland	21
EI0Z/P at Newgrange	22
Marconi Sites in Ireland	22
IOTA Contest - EI Records	23
The Incoming QSL Bureau by EI2HX	23
80m Counties Contest Results	24
EI SSB CQ WPX Results and Records	25
Thirty Years on with Tony EI5EM	26/27
New Radio News Editor	27
DXCC & E-QSL EI Listings	28
Members Advertisements	29
Bangor & District Rallies	29
Carrigfergus Amateur Radio Group	29
IRTS AGM Weekend in Limerick	30
Lagan Valley & Lough Erne Rallies	30
JBT Trading (Advert)	31
South East Communications (Advert)	32

When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published.

Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use www.irts.ie/renew to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down.

Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer
memrecords@irts.ie

IRTS Awards Nominations.

The time is here again for nominations for the several awards for IRTS Trophies and cups that are required from within the membership, this includes the awards for;

1. Service to the Society or to Amateur Radio
Awards in this category can be to members or non-members.
2. Awards for other achievements.
Awards in this category [2] include the 4 and 6 Meter Shields, the SWL Award, and the awards for Quality Construction Projects.
These are confined to members only.

When considering your nominations, please refer to previous successful winners as included in www.irts.ie/cgi/awards.cgi

Nominations may be from Clubs or individuals, must be by post or e-mail, and should be forwarded to the Awards Committee Members, Pat EI2HX and Pat EI9HX, or to Peter Grant EI4HX, Chair of Awards Committee, QTHR, or by e-mail to

[ei4hxperimental@eircom.net.](mailto:ei4hxperimental@eircom.net)

Theory Classes in Dundalk

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society, EI7DAR, commenced amateur radio theory classes Thursday February 3rd 2011.

Classes are held at the club premises 'Larkin House', 113, Castletown Road, Dundalk.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in obtaining their amateur radio licence in an adult learning relaxed environment.

For further information and details please contact ei4dib@ei7dar.com or by text only to 086 4066660.

Everyone welcome.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will take place on Monday 28th February in the Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

All are welcome.

For up to date information about the club, visit www.searg.com

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

78th Annual General Meeting

March 27th 2011

Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1400 on Sunday March 27th at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick

Committee Nominations

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Paul Martin EI2CA
Vice-President	Seamus McCague EI8BP

Committee

John Owen-Jones EI1EM
Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
Thos Caffrey EI2JD
Tony Casey EI3HA
Jim Smith EI4CP
Sean Donelan EI4GK
James Holohan EI4HH
Peter Grant EI4HX
Stephen Wright EI5DD
John McCarthy EI8JA
Charlie Carolan EI8JB

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

Amateur Station Licence Examination

Those studying for the licence examination and their tutors will be interested in the document "Studying for the Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate" which includes the revised examination syllabus, along with a sample paper based on the new syllabus. This document can be obtained at www.irts.ie/downloads or from the "Amateur Station Licence Examination" page of the IRTS web site.

IRTS NEWS on Community Radio

The IRTS weekly radio news will now be read on 'Dundalkfm' local community radio station on Tuesdays.

This provides open access to amateur radio news for the general public locally and interested people alike.

Dundalkfm broadcast on 100 MHz and stream live on the internet on www.dundalkfm.com

Fingal Radio Club

Fingal Radio Club EI2FRC no longer meets at the Erin's Isle GAA Club, Farnham Drive Finglas Dublin.

They have not yet finalised a new meeting place, so in the meantime contact and information about the club may be made to Chris Yeates EI7AAB at yeatesdsl@eircom.net

Limerick Radio Club Annual General Meeting

Limerick Radio Club had a large turn out of members for their Annual General Meeting on 10th February and the following officers were elected:

Chairman:	Dermot Gleeson EI2GT,
Secretary	Ger McNamara EI4GXB,
Treasurer	Tony Condon EI2AW,
Committee	Mike Griffin EI4FMB, Simon Kenny EI7ALB, Michael Kingston EI2IX, Brendan McNamara EI9GHB

They would also like to welcome the following new members:
Barry Merrill W5GN, Judy Merrill KA5PQD and Philip Hogan SWL.



Fermanagh in IRTS 80m Counties Contest

Until a couple of years ago, Fermanagh rarely featured in January's 80M counties contest, a gap well plugged now by Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club with its club station and other stations active this year and last.

LEARC's 2011 club station, set up by a team of eight at Herbie Gi6JPO's QTH on a hill-top in Cavanacaragh, near Enniskillen, logged about 73 QSOs and 28 counties, compared to 43 and 23 last year. Other logs duly submitted by 2 February brought Fermanagh's QSO total to near 120, across Ireland and including a few with Britain and mainland Europe.

These are very modest figures compared to many heard, or listed in 2010 results, yet a good measure of enjoyment of amateur radio together for club and county. It was good to see almost half of those involved were recent new Foundation licensed members building up experience. Two, both teenagers, are pictured Jamie Mi6JNU and Gemma Mi6GDM.

Michael Clarke, MI5MTC, Chairman LEARC.
Email mi5mtc@learc.eu

Classes at South Dublin Radio Club

Classes are starting again at South Dublin Radio Club which currently meets at 8:00 pm in Terenure College on Tuesday evenings.

Telephone Michael EI2GKB on 087 248 1970 or email him at miklef@oceanfree.net for further information.

False Call MN0LEC

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club, GI0LEC repudiates the similar looking but false club call sign MN0LEC that was posted on QRZ.com.

QRZ.com is a valuable, voluntary service to amateur radio, world-wide. It is delivered by few and used by many in amateur radio. It should NOT be abused.

MN0LEC looks like a modernised GI0LEC, the long-held call of Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club. Moreover, the MN0LEC posting names a local amateur and its text claims ownership of Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club's repeater GB3CP.

MN0LEC is a pirate call. It abuses a genuine call M0LEC that is already issued to an amateur in Plymouth.

QRZ.com has de-listed MN0LEC and posted a news thread. Ofcom advises that anyone hearing MN0LEC on-air should report details to Ofcom.

For more information go to www.qrz.com and www.learc.eu
Michael Clarke, MI5MTC,
Chairman Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club



Ian Morris Memorial Trophy

The South Dublin Radio Club, in honour of the late Ian Morris EI6U, donated the trophy to the Society. Ian was a member of the committee of the Society for many years and was a very proficient CW, Field Day and contest operator.

The trophy is awarded to the shortwave listener with the highest number of DXCC entities confirmed in the previous year. Brendan EI1429 has won it for the past two years. Can he do three-in-a-row?

Irish Geopark Station Plans 2011

The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and the Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club are keen again that Ireland will have its say on the 2011 International Geopark Communication weekend on 28 & 29 May, with special stations, likely EI2GEO again, at the Copper Coast Geopark and, likely GB2MAC again, at the Marble Arch Caves International Geopark in Fermanagh which straddles the border into Cavan.



Geoparks are areas recognised by UNESCO to have exceptional geological heritage. Across Europe there are 42 in 16 countries that include only these two on the island of Ireland. As well as the scientific interest, Geoparks are often major tourism attractions. There are six in Great Britain. This event, in its fourth year, was begun by Martin Foster G3VOF and others with GB6GEO on the English Riviera Geopark.

LEARC's Alan Gault Gi6PYP will again be licence holder for GB2MAC. Last year's station, with mobile mast and caravan was in a hilltop lay-by just above the Caves entrance building. Six operators logged 51 QSOs with 16 countries, most in Europe, others as far east as Asiatic Russia, and west to USA, Cuba and Argentina.

Last year EI2GEO made many QSOs on various HF bands. On site were Francis EI5GOB, Declan EI5GRB, Jim EI8IG, John EI7IG, John EI8JA and Mark EI7IS. Saturday visitors included scouts interested in radio. Martin EI8FFB did some late night 40 and 20 metre operating. Special thanks to Jim EI8IG for the camper van. There is lots of Geopark and other information on SEARG's impressive website.

Hopes for 2011 again are enjoyable amateur radio, involving a lot of club members in both Irish stations, north and south, and other Geopark stations in Great Britain and mainland Europe. Amateur radio's own culture is international educational and scientific, so it is entirely appropriate that we be involved with Geoparks recognised by UNESCO – the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation.



For more, contact
Mark Wall, EI7IS, SEARG P.R.O &
Webmaster. Email markwall@vodafone.ie
Michael Clarke, Mi5MTC, Chairman
Lough Erne ARC. Email mi5mtc@learc.eu

IOTA Contest from Inishmore, Aran Islands

Members of the Addiscombe Amateur Radio Club, from Croydon in Surrey, in conjunction with members of the Galway VHF Group are planning to enter the Islands On The Air contest from Inishmore in the Aran Islands.

The callsign in use will be EJ4ALE/P on this occasion. It is hoped that there will be four or five members of the AARC and five members of the Galway VHF Group. Plans are in the early stages at present with a rekky mission to be completed in the next few weeks.

The Addiscombe Club own the callsign G4ALE and also G0ALE. Operators from the UK will include Steve G3UFY, Quentin G3WRR and Mike G3VYI plus two others and from the Galway VHF Group, Steve EI5DD, Enda EI3IS, Gerry EI8DRB, Joe EI3IX, and John EI1EM.

The contest will be held as usual over the last full weekend in July

Fermanagh Repeater



As thanks for important and valuable services to the Fermanagh Repeater, GB3CP, **Raymond Ashe GI8RLE** was guest of honour at Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club's annual winter lunch, attended by over 30 club members, friends and family.

The photograph shows LEARC Chairman, Michael Clarke MI5MTC, Raymond GI8RLE and Treasurer Herbie Graham GI6JPO, whose good work on financial and technical aspects of the Club's repeater project were essential to its success.

GB3CP is a service to all in amateur radio and funded by income from the Lough Erne Rally. The thirtieth is in SHARE on 17th April, the Sunday before Easter.

The talk-in will make good use of GB3CP's excellent footprint serving radio amateurs mobile in Fermanagh and nearby counties in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

GB3CP details - RV59, O/P 145.7375, RX1 145.1375 MHz, CTCSS 110.9 Hz or 1750 Hz tone.

Michael Clarke MI5MTC

Chairman LEARC
Tel. 028-6862-1436. Email mi5mtc@learc.eu

Did you know?

In February 2004, a unique Morse code for '@' (at) symbol as used in an email, was introduced:

•••• (Dit-Dah-Dah-Dit-Dah-Dit).

Echo Ireland Input

All input for inclusion in Echo Ireland should be sent to:

Dave Moore EI4BZ,
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

ei4bz@eircom.net 087-6290574

Amateur Radio Emergency Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December in €

	Note	2010	2009	2008
Income	1			
Gifts and Donations	2			
Cash		212.00	2,130.60	425.12
Non-cash		98.75	765.00	2,560.63
Subscriptions	3	715.00	450.00	0.00
Total Income		1,025.75	3,345.60	2,985.75
Expense	1			
Equipment and Supplies	2, 4	105.75	2,613.96	2,500.00
Insurance	3	543.84	286.00	0.00
Account Maintenance Fees		39.60	35.50	4.80
Identification Cards	3	0.00	202.60	0.00
Website Expense		60.38	0.00	113.75
Hire of Facilities		143.60	0.00	25.00
Other Expense	5	341.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense		1,234.17	3,138.06	2,643.55
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		-208.42	207.54	342.20
Cash Balance at Beginning of Year	6	549.74	342.20	0.00
Cash Balance at End of Year	6	341.32	549.74	342.20



First Fermanagh JOTA Station

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club's long held ambition to set up a Jamboree on the Air station has been realised. The photograph shows Fermanagh scout Chris Armstrong, age 16, exchanging greetings with another scout in Britain on the JOTA weekend.

LEARC had completed its HF field station project - purchasing a mobile mast, rig, generator, antennas, ATU and PSU. Contacted by Stephen Hand GI7UIM, First Fermanagh Scouts hosted the Club station GI0LEC in Lisnaskea for Fermanagh's first JOTA station. 16 QSO's were logged, local scouts exchanging greetings with other scouts.

This very modest beginning roused enthusiasm to involve more scouts across the county in plans for next October's 2011 International JOTA weekend.

Notes to Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010

General

Amateur Radio Emergency Network ('AREN') is the voluntary public service emergency radio communications network run by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society ('IRTS'). AREN operates under the organisation of and as part of the IRTS, and does not have any legal status distinct from the IRTS.

The IRTS has the legal status of 'unincorporated society.'

1 Accounting Policies

Accounts are prepared on a cash basis. Therefore, income and expense items are recognized in the year they are received/paid, even if they apply to a different year.

2 Gifts and Donations

Equipment and supplies donated to AREN are accounted for both as income received and as expense for equipment and supplies purchased, using the actual cost of the equipment if new or the estimated fair value if not new. Cash gifts during 2009 included €1,600 received from the IRTS.

Non-cash gifts consist of donated supplies and equipment.

3 Subscriptions

Subscription fees were instituted during 2009 to defray the cost of insurance and identification cards for members. Insurance for 2010 reflected cover for the full year and a greater number of members than in 2009.

4 Equipment and Supplies

Equipment and supplies were donated and purchased during 2009 in order to outfit AREN's Mobile Command Post trailer.

5 Other Expense

Other Expense for 2010 included €300 in fees for the issuance of new callsigns for AREN use.

6 Cash Balances

Cash accounts are held with Bank of Ireland and PayPal (Europe). Beginning and ending balances for 2010 are shown below.

	Bank of Ireland Account	Pay Pal Account	Total Cash Balance
Cash Balance at 01/01/2010	€493.20	€56.54	€549.74
Cash Balance at 31/12/2010	€303.16	€38.16	€341.32

Change of 40m WAI Frequency

**Please note that the
40m WAI Frequency has
been changed from
7.068 to 7.170**

Online Access to Echo Ireland

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:
memrecords@irts.ie

Cork Annual Dinner at Vienna Woods Hotel

Photos by EI4JF



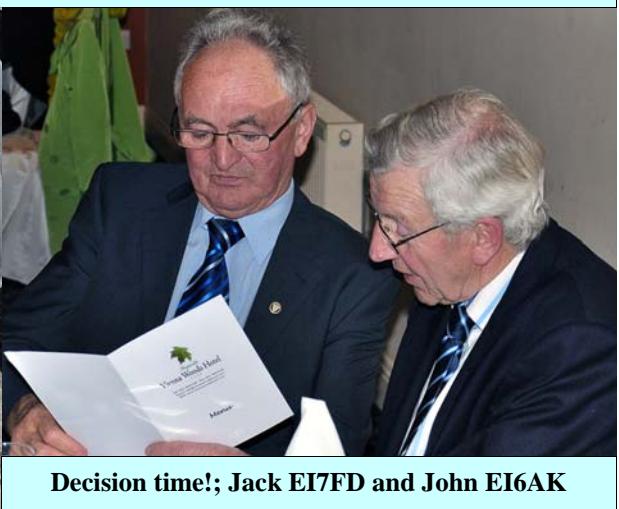
XYL;s: Eunice (7BA), Phil (6BT), Geraldine (8GS), Pauline (5HB), Hilary EI4IE, Olive (4BZ), Liz (3JE)



Ingo DH5ST



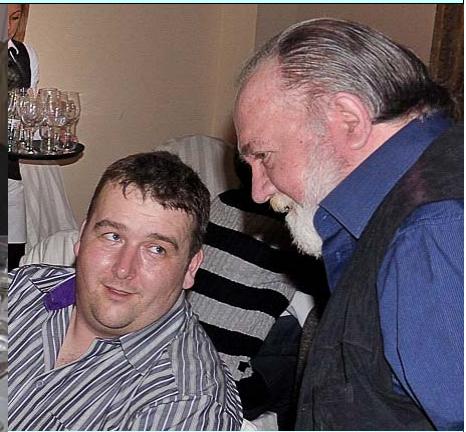
Denis EI8GAB



Decision time!; Jack EI7FD and John EI6AK



John EI7BA, Jerry EI6BT, Jim EI8GS, Mannix EI5HB and Neil EI3JE



Dave EI9FBB and Hans EI8GRB



Tony EI8HK, Denis EI6HB and Hugh EI2HI



Aedan EI3EG, EI4BZ, Finbarr EI1CS



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome again to all and I'm going to begin this issue with a little bit of trivia. All will be revealed!

January 1992 brought the first HF write-up to these pages where Dave, EI4BZ wrote the first 'On the Air' column. Declan, EI6FR took over with the September 1993 issue and continued successfully until March 2001 when he handed over to Anthony, EI2HY who kindly took up the reins shared his knowledge with us.

Over this 13 year period many changes were encountered as the internet brought many advantages (and disadvantages) to us all. Daily DX bulletins were now standard practise, on-line logs were becoming more and more readily available as more and more homes around the world now had computers as a common appliance! As a result of such, these pages had to follow suit and January 2001 saw these pages re-named to 'HF Happenings' by yours truly! It only seems like yesterday when I was trembling with the fear of writing my first article and after 5 years, I now feel that it is time for someone new to maintain with these advancements and perhaps re-vitalise our interests even more. There is now an opportunity for anyone interested to share their experience/knowledge with us and to write these pages which have become such a valuable source of information. Please send expressions of interest to : ei9fbb@oceanfree.net

OK, now on with the real informative DX news. As mentioned in the last issue, we have now secured permission to reproduce Joe, W1JR's most valuable End of Year review for 2010 – tnx Joe.

2010 DXCC Year End Review by Joe Reisert, W1JR

An Overview:

DX wise, the year 2010 started out as a year of great expectations but was very similar to what we experienced in 2007 through 2009 with only a few improvements in radio propagation. There were approximately 285 DXCC entities activated during 2010, about the same as 2009 but this also includes four (4) newly created entities. I'd call this the "Year of the Caribbean", not only because of the four new entities but that many more DXers were visiting the Caribbean Is-

lands and making all these entities available to "The Deserving."

A Quick Review of 2010:

There were several DXpeditions from places that are high on the "2010 Most Wanted Survey" in "The DX Magazine" by N4AA although only one of the "Top 10" (ZS8M) was activated. Unfortunately as frequently happens, several DXpeditions were delayed (hopefully only into 2011), had to be cancelled or were thwarted from operating for one reason or another. Most entities activated were available on SSB but CW still did not die since there were at least 260 entities active on CW. This is an improvement over 2009. The "599 TU" QSOs on CW are still very popular although some are advocating a return to the days when signal reports meant something! Computer sending and receiving were very evident as well as many using the DX Clusters.

A few new organizations and foundations were formed and/or activated in 2010. The first was "CW Ops" for dedicated CW operators. The Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) was established by K1DG and company to advance the skill and art of radio operating. Due to other obligations, K1AR will now take over. Contest University (CTU) under the direction of Tim, K3LR has now gone worldwide. The next Radio Sport major event will be held in New England in July 2014 under the direction of K1DG.

A Solar Review:

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and he sent us a gift of sunspots early in the year. We are definitely into Solar Cycle 24 since technically Solar Cycle 23 ended in late 2008. However, in contrast to prior Solar Cycles, it has been a rocky start with periods of improvements followed by quiet times. Some of the computer models of late are now undergoing modifications. For now, it doesn't look like we will experience another Maunder Minimum but it also doesn't look like Solar Cycle 24 will be a memorable one with record numbers of sunspots.

The solar flux did get into the mid-nineties during the start of the year up until March yielding improved HF conditions but then pulled back until late September through early December. Some

Auroral disturbances were evident in early April and early August. Several times during the year, especially in April and May, we experienced up to a week with zero sunspots. Near the end of the year we again had no sunspots for several days between December 19 and 25th. NOAA has the "Stereo" satellites looking at the Sun from the front and back so now sunspots can be easily spotted. No pun intended. The smoothed sunspot count at the end of the year was around 25 so we still have a long way to go until the predicted sunspot peak in mid-2013.

Activity:

There was plenty of DX activity in 2010 albeit mostly concentrated on 160 through 17 meters. 160 Meters seems to be getting lots of DX activity but possibly at the expense of 80 Meters which does become active during contests. Several more entities have received permission to operate on 60 Meters bringing the total available to DXCC level. 40 Meters is still the night time breadwinner. The expansion of 40 meters from 7100 to at least 7200 KHz for many of the Worlds entities has generated lots more activity, especially during SSB contests. 30 meters is becoming very popular, even for digital modes and is sometimes open 24 hours a day. 20 Meters is still the daytime breadwinner along with 17 meters. 15 meter conditions are improving and are sharing some of the load when the solar flux rises. During this year 12 and 10 meters were spotty at best and then mostly only on the North/South or skewed paths but some good inter-continental DX occurred especially during DX contests. Some sporadic E propagation especially during June, July and December did enhance HF DX somewhat but this was not due to increased sunspots.

Equipment and Publications:

Some new equipment came on the market. The four major radio manufacturers all introduced new transceivers and peripherals. New receiving arrays became available for the Low Bands.

SDR (Software Defined Radios) also increased. In addition, some do-it-yourself low cost SDR kits became available. New antennas were introduced, especially compact multi-band Yagis.

The ARRL announced a revised hand-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

book of interest to LF DXers, the 5th edition of "Low-Band DXing" by ON4UN.

The Internet:

Most major contest logs and some awards now have to be submitted via the Internet. Internet use and abuse by Amateurs continues to increase especially for spotting clusters. The DX clusters are an amazing tool for finding and spotting rare DX. One popular one is "DX Summit." Clusters are a far cry from the way we used to spot DX using either the telephone, spotting frequencies on HF or VHF repeaters. However, there are several downsides. All too often incorrect or extremely rare call signs (not on the air at the time!) are spotted. A rare call sign can cause a huge pileup that may even cover up the DX station. Always listen before you call to be sure it is the right station and especially if there are special instructions such as listening UP! In these days of seldom signing call signs, never reply solely on the accuracy of the spot as you may receive a NIL (Not in Log) to your QSL request.

During 2010 there were often two or more Dxpeditions operating simultaneously and often pileups coincided or overlapped.

Also don't post spots with bragging or QSY request addendums. No one cares and in the case of DXpeditions, they seldom are continuously connected to the clusters so they usually don't see your spot.

QSLing etc.:

There is no denying that the cost of QSLing is becoming too expensive. I prefer paper QSLs but realize that I am in the minority. The ARRL outgoing QSL Bureau can lower QSLing cost. This year they shipped over 700,000 QSLs weighing over 4,500 pounds. To further offset QSLing cost, the ARRL LOTW (Log Book of the World) is becoming very popular.

The DXCC has been the prime user but other awards are being added.

There are now over 300 million LOTW QSO entries and over 35,000 LOTW users, an increase of almost 25% over 2009! Many DX stations, especially the large scale DXpeditions now update their logs on the Internet during their operation. Also, several of the large 2010 DXpeditions put their logs directly into the LOTW. Due to some potential problems, the LOTW will not accept any logs from the recent PJ operations until sometime later in January 2011.

Operating techniques:

Change happens. Some new modes of communications have recently appeared on HF. The JT65 digital mode similar to operation used on VHF is now being used on HF. Also, the WSPR mode (See QST November 2010) is now being used.

Split frequency operation, especially by DXpeditions has its own problems. Often calling stations are not aware of the split and QRM the DX. During several of the major DXpeditions I carefully monitored the DX station frequency. Often someone would hear this relatively clean frequency, jump right in, hear the DX station giving reports, imagined that they had a QSO and with impeccable timing would hear the DX station say TU and think they had a valid QSO! It goes without saying that if you aren't copying the DX station well enough to properly identify the station or aren't aware of what technique is being used by the DX station, DON'T CALL! There is a good reason to check logs if they are posted on the Internet rather than receiving back a NIL reply to your QSL request. This doesn't mean that we should call continuously and later check the internet hoping to see if your call sign is in the log!

Also, there are the usual problems with "frequency policeman". If you can't refrain from saying something to the interfering stations, drop in a SHORT reminder like UP. Sending or saying a long string of UP UP UP UP UP, Hi Hi or calling a station a lid often does more harm than good and often QRMs the DX station. Of course, obscenities are NEVER appropriate. Also, try not to rag chew on frequencies frequented by rare DX such as 3.795, 14.195 and 14.260 (IOTA) MHz. These are just a few frequencies that come to mind. You may not hear the DX station but transmitting on those frequencies will make it difficult for others that are experiencing better propagation than you are.

Space does not permit more info on operating but the following references are highly recommended reading. First see "DX Etiquette" by W6SJ in March 2010 QST, pg. 100. Then look up on the Internet the following: The "DX Code of Conduct" by the FOC (First Class CW Operators Club) and "Ham Radio Ethics and Operating Procedures" by John, ON4UN and Mark, ON4WW.

Pirates and Unauthorized Operations:

As usual, many pirate operations showed up in 2010 using existing or unlicensed call signs. 3B8FOA, 3B8/F4BOA, 3Y0B,

3Y0M, 4K2JF/P, C31YL, EZ (all), JW2JF/P, JW6EHQ, S9SS, UF6s (All), TS7C in May/June, ZK3T, ZL8K, ZL9BI, ZL9CI, and ZS8M (on CW) are just a few. Also many calls are often improperly spotted (typos) on the DX Clusters. 9Q/DK3MO has submitted papers to ARRL and operations are now approved. Also some DXpedition call signs were even pirated during their operation. WFWL (work first, worry later) these stations but this does little good if they are a pirate so sending a QSL is a waste of time and money.

2010 DXCC Changes:

This was the first year in some time that the DXCC list changed. On October 10, 2010 the former entities of PJ2,4,9 (Curacao and Bonaire) and PJ5-8 (Saba, St. Maarten and St. Eustatius) Caribbean Dutch colonies changed governmental status and both were moved to the Deleted List. At the same time PJ2 Curacao, PJ4 Bonaire, PJ5/6 Saba and Saint Eustatius, and PJ7 Sint Maarten were added to the DXCC current list as four (4) separate new entities effective after 0400 UTC on October 10th meaning that the current DXCC list now has 340 active entities. If you add the 60 deleted entities, the DXCC total is now 400 entities for the first time. It is doubtful that anyone can achieve this total for some time since the top leaders missed at least two (2) of the deleted entities. Therefore, until more entities are added, 400 will be an elusive number.

DX Operations:

There was a major DX item of interest in 2010. An agreement was established to allow limited operations from some of the restricted access US Possessions in the Pacific area. However, they must conform to special regulations and will probably not be activated more often than once every five (5) years. The first one to be activated will probably be KH5, Jarvis but not until November 2011. Several large scale DXpeditions were activated although some were not successful for one reason or another. Hopefully they will be rescheduled. Still no word on Navassa but I'm sure that will eventually happen.

The 2010 DX Review:

The following is a brief summary of monthly activity during 2010. Emphasis will be on rare to semi-rare operations and Dxpeditions especially where no resident Amateurs are active.

(Continued from page 9)

January is still a tough month for DXers but this year was helped by the solar flux being above 90 at the start of the year. A very active DXer could have worked 100 entities over the long New Year's Day weekend. There were at least 230 entities activated during January, about ten or so more than in 2009. Activity from semi-rare entities was helped by the unfortunate earthquake in Haiti with HH2/HB9AMO on the scene. Other semi-rare operations were C56SMT, EL8RI, SV2ASP/A, C21DL, 7P8BA, T32BJ, TL0A, DT8A (S. Shetlands), TX3D (Australis), YJ0NA, and XR0ZA to name a few. A well-equipped DXer could have worked at least 200 entities in January.

February was also a very good month for DXers with 160 meters still yielding some very good DX and 17 meters improving. During mid-February HF conditions really improved. C21DL, DT8A, TX3D and XR0ZA were still active. They were joined by 9X and 9U operations, 5W0YA/OU, E51WWB (N. Cook), H40FN, H44MS, J5NAR/UAP, VP6AL, and VK9X/G6AY.

March propagation seemed to improve with some openings on 12 and 10 meters. 3B9WR, 4U1UN, 9Q0AR, A33A, CE0Y/LA9SN, HC8GR, S79GM, TZ6TR, VK9C/NL8F, XT2KY and ZK3OU/YA were all very active. One of the longest and most productive IOTA (Islands on the Air) DXpeditions started.

Using several different T32 callsigns (to identify the different islands), they operated from Malden, Caroline, Vostok/Flint, and Starbuck Islands. No known Amateur activity had ever taken place from these widely separated islands. They sailed several weeks covering over 2,000 total miles and made over 34,000 QSOs.

April saw a large DXpedition operating as YI9PSE activate all HF bands and modes making over 50,000 QSOs. This was followed by operations from FW5X, SV2ASP/A (on CW and RTTY), TN5SN, T2A, TT8PK, and ZL7J.

May had its ups and downs. TL0A was activated on CW and RTTY by visitors F6EXV and DJ8NK respectively. A DXpedition also put on an all band and mode effort from E4X starting at the end of the month and made over 80,000 QSOs. They caught an unusually long distance late in the evening sporadic E opening to the East Coast of the USA on 6 meters and worked many mid-Atlantic stations. E4X may have set an all-time

record for a DXpedition by working over 6,500 QSOs on 6 meters. VK9LL activated Lord Howe Island. KP4AO using the 1000 foot dish antenna at Arecibo, Puerto Rico worked over 240 stations on 432 MHz EME, a distance of about 250,000 miles!

DX wise, **June** was also a very productive month. EA5BYP organized a DXpedition to 3C9B and 3C0C although the later operation was mysteriously cut short after about 11,500 QSOs and no 160 meter operations. T30XG, FJ/DL1DA, and OJ0A followed.

July saw activity by FP/K9OT, OJ0A, 9Q50ON, XT2EME (Mostly VHF EME), FWs, 9X0TL, 5V7DX, and XW1B. As usual, **August** was very quiet except for YJ0VK and XT2EME.

September came alive as usual. Notable activity was from Pierre, ZS8M, one of the Top-Ten needed, using only SSB on several bands. He is antenna challenged so as not to affect the bird population. Also, a large construction on Marion Island took Pierre off the air for some time but he will make every effort to work the deserving until he is reassigned early next year. C91KNH, RI1FJ (FJL), YK1BA, and FH8ND soon followed.

October will probably go down in the DX history books. Four new entities were added to the current DXCC list and activated as mentioned earlier. All four of the new PJ entities came on after 0400 UTC on October 10th, the day of the change of government status of these Dutch islands. The four major DXpeditions coordinated their operations so that they would spread out over the bands so as to cause the least amount of QRM to each other. I'm told that it was well controlled and over 100,000 QSOs were made in the first week of operation. Unfortunately for me, I had family business in Hawaii (sob) so I missed all the action and have lots of catching up to do! Other notable operations in October were KG4AS, CE0Y/DK7ZB, 5V7TT, TY1JB, ZD9AH, A25s, CY0/VE1AWW (a resident worker on Sable I.), FP, and 9X.

The CQWW SSB DX contest experienced great propagation conditions to round out the month.

November saw operations from 9U, 9X, TJ3AY, 9L, TO3A (FJ), HK0GU (HK0S), 3DA0s, VK0KEV (Macquarie now in residence), ZK2A, ZD9T and ZD9AH, ZL7s, and ZL8X. The latter made a great effort on all bands and

modes while making over 140,000 QSOs from this semi-rare entity.

December rounded out the year with operations by H40FN, J5V, S21YX, VK9NN, ZL7s, a large scale DXpedition by 9Q50ON and 5T0JL on New Year's Eve.

And now the Drum Roll: Those entities that were NOT believed to have been active during 2010 are as follows:

Africa (17): 3B6, 3X, 3Y/B, 5A, 5U, D6, E3, FR/G, FR/J, FR/T, FT/W, FT/X, FT/Z, S0, S9, T5, and VK0/H.

Antarctica (1): 3Y0 (Peter 1).

Asia (9): 1S, 7O, BS7H, BV9P, EZ, P5, VU4, VU7, and XZ.

Europe (3): 1A0, JX, and R1M (MV Island).

North America (7): CY9, FO/C, KP1, KP5, TI9, XF4 and YV0.

Oceania (13): 3D2/C, FO/M, KH1, KH3, KH4, KH5, KH5K, KH7K, KH8S, T33, VK9/M, VP6/D, and ZL9.

South America (6): CE0/X, HK0/M, PY0/S, PY0/T, VP8/SG, and VP8/Sand.

Please note that some rare entities may not be on this list. This is because some operations, however short, were conducted during 2010.

Examples are FK8/C from Chesterfield and 3D2AA from Rotuma.

A list of DXCC entities that are believed to have not been activated in over six (6) years are: 7O, BV9P, CE0X, E3, FR/E, FR/T, FT/Z, HK0/M, KH1, KH3, KH5K, KP1, P5, VK0/H, VP8 (S. Sandwich) and ZL9.

This shows that an avid DXer working hard at DXCC in the last 7-10 years could have been able to make the DXCC Honor Roll. This also serves as a guide to those planning DXpeditions to rare entities.

Silent Keys:

It is sad to note that several well known Amateurs became silent keys during 2010 and deserve to be remembered. Among them, not in any particular order were Vince, K5VT who gave many of us a new one and was a great contest operator.

K4TWJ gave us lots of history on Morse keys. Ahmed, HZ1HZ will surely be remembered by old timers for his great CW and contest skills. HB9TL was one of the top DXers in Europe and put out several entities. NM7M was well known as a

(Continued from page 10)

propagation expert and will be remembered for his many LF propagation articles.

Frank, W6KPC will also be remembered by old timers for his large 10 meter arrays and articles on same. Finally one of my DX Elmer's, Elliott, W2MUM, a great low power DXer passed away at age 91.

Looking ahead to 2011:

Solar Cycle 24 sunspots are increasing albeit slow and sporadically. This will improve propagation on the higher HF bands. Look for the solar flux to go over 100 with low A (<20) and K (<3) indices. Solar wind below 300 KM per second and dynamic pressure less than 0.5 nPa as show on NOAA Space Weather are also good indicators of improved HF propagation.

The possibility of new entities being added to the DXCC list still exists. Kosovo may finally obtain all the needed requirements for separate status. An election is scheduled for early January that could possibly change the status of the Southern Sudan region. If separation from Northern Sudan occurs, a new entity could be created. Also of note is that a recent Russian treaty took back possession of Malyj Vysotskij Island (4J1FS etc.) from Finland so this entity should soon be added to the deleted list.

January is shaping up to be a very exciting month with more sunspots and some rare entities scheduled such as 3B9, VK9X, VP8ORK and DX0DX (Spratly). These will hopefully be followed in later months by S9DX, VK9C, T30, CY0, T31, 3D2R, 3D2C and KH5 (Jarvis Island) to name a few. We hope that the excellent cooperation with the USFWS that permitted the recent operation from Desecheo and Midway Islands will help to open the door for operation from other entities such as Navassa Island which has similar environmental restrictions. VK0 from Heard Island is also in the rumor mill for 2013. Others operations maybe in the planning stages and not yet announced. 2011 should be an exciting year for DXers.

DX means many different things to many people. Some DXers are only interested in the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll and soon run out of interest and challenges. Others pursue the never ending ARRL Challenge competition. Some like to chase Islands for the IOTA (Islands on the Air) program by the RSGB. There are approxi-

mately 1200 IOTA Island Groups and many have never been activated so there are lots of challenges. For the last several years, CQ Magazine has reinstated the year long CQ DXCC Marathon to see who can work the most entities in each calendar year. This program has a few more challenges by also adding several entities recognized only by CQ Magazine but not on the ARRL DXCC list as well as working all 40 zones. And there are the never ending DX Contests. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways die for lack of activity. Stay active and join the fun.

Finally once again I am honored to be asked by Bernie, W3UR to write this review and for his valuable critique. Thanks also to my son Jim, AD1C for all his computer help! Obviously all the opinions etc. expressed are solely mine as are any errors (I hope there aren't many) that I have made. This write up is copyrighted. Therefore copies or use of this review MUST first be approved by Bernie and then a courtesy copy of the reprint sent to W1JR.

Best of DX to you in 2011 and here's hoping to see you in the pileups.

Editor's note: Congratulations to the following stations who reported working 250 or more countries during the 2010 calendar year: EI9FBB, K4MWB, K5EK, N4BAA, N5ZM, N8RR, PA3FQA, W1SKU, W2QO, W4QN, W4VIC and W8AEF. A special thanks to W1JR, Joe, for the above article.

(ST0) Southern Sudan.

October 2010 will certainly go down in the History Books where 2 DXCC entities were removed and 4 new entities were added thus bringing the total of current DXCC entities to 340. This of course was the addition of PJ2, PJ4, PJ5 & PJ7. Well, it now looks like as if #341 will become a reality later on this year. The following is a report on the pending status of (ST0) Southern Sudan.

The Intrepid-DX Group and the DX Friends have assembled an outstanding team of operators to activate the new country of Southern Sudan to take place on or after July 9th, 2011.

The Intrepid-DX Group is the group which brought you the 2010 YI9PSE, IRAQ DXpedition. The DX Friends have brought you the 2006 S01R DXpedition to Western Sahara, the 2008 DXpedition

to Rwanda as 9X0R, the 2009 DXpedition to Western Sahara as S04R, the 2010 DXpedition to Palestine as E4X and the 2010 DXpedition to San Marino as T70A.

The DX Friends and The Intrepid-DX Group continue to move forward in our planning with representatives of the new Southern Sudan Government and the ITU/IARU.

Our official website is now active at: [http://www.dxfriends.com/
SouthernSudan2011/](http://www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/)

At this time, we are not seeking donations or support until we have an official operating permit/license in hand. We will provide an additional Press Release-Update at that time.

Thank you,
The Intrepid-DX Group and The DX Friends.

JX7VPA - Jan Mayen.

Last March it was announced that a multi-national team planed to be QRV from Jan Mayen in 2011. At the time the team included EI6FR, Declan; HB9ASZ, Bernie; K6WH, Deon; NI1L, Leszek; OH2TA, Pekka; SQ8X, Stan; SQ9C, Tom; SQ9DIE, Pete; and SV2KBS (LA7VPA), Vicky. The original dates were July 4-16, 2011 but now appear to be modified to July 6 to 14 of this year. Plans were to have three stations QRV. They soon plan to have a Website at <http://www.janmayen2011.org/>.

T31A - Central Kiribati.

A 12 man international team is heading to Kanton Island, Central Kiribati in April of this year. T31 ranks number 28 on The DX Magazines 2010 "Most Wanted" list. The Telecommunication Authority of Kiribati (TAK) has issued the call T31A. Team members include: EA1IR, Carlos Garcia; K6ZH, Jim Price; N1EMC, Dave Franco; N6HC, Arnie Shatz; N7CQQ, John Kennon; N7CW, Bud Semon; N9NS, Mike Goode; UX2HO, Paul Budanov; W2IJ, Jay Kobelin; W6KK, Charlie Spetnagel; W9IXX, Phil Florig and YT1AD, Hrane Milosevic. Pilot stations for this operation will be EA3NY, Eduardo, and K5YY, and San. Plans are to ship the equipment to Apia, Samoa via shipping container in March. An advanced team of two of the ops will go to Samoa between April 6th and 11th to inspect the equipment and will be QRV from 5W. The rest of the team will arrive in Apia on April 11th.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

The entire team expects to set sail aboard the R/V Bounty Bay on April 13th with expected arrival on Kanton Island on April 17th. The team plans to be QRV on 1.8 through 50 MHz on SSB, CW and RTTY starting April 17th or 18th through April 28th. They will set up two operating sites.

Plans are to pack up and depart back to Apia on April 29th, which is an expected one day stop on Tokelau on May 1st and back to Samoa the following day. EA2RY, Roberto, will be the Webmaster of their www.t31a.com Website. They are looking into the ability to connect to the Internet from T31 and if able to do so will upload logs to their Website. The Website also has complete bios, background info on Kanton Island and propagation data. QSL via W2IJ either direct to Jay Kobelin, 10628 Grandview Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701, USA or via the bureau.

4A4A - Revillagigedo.

4A4A is an XF4, Revillagigedo, expedition for March. XE1B, Marcos, is team leader. There will be nine operators on Socorro, March 4-19.

This is IOTA NA-030. QSL direct or LoTW, via EB7DX. <http://www.eb7dx.com>. And the expedition web page is: <http://www.revillagigedo2011.com>.

EA4AK has a photo album about XF4 at <https://picasaweb.google.com/EA4AK>. Santos/4A4AVARIOS# and also some "propagation movies": <http://www.youtube.com/user/EA4AK>. There are also "stills" from the movies: <https://picasaweb.google.com/EA4AK>. Santos/4A4APROPAGATIONIMAGES#.

On Revillagigedo, The plan is to have a CW and an SSB team on the air fulltime. For antennas, it's Yagis on higher bands and verticals on lower bands. The organizers are still working on getting amps to the op site.

XF4 DXpedition plans include keeping a CW team and an SSB team simultaneously on the air at all times. They plan to be on 160-10 plus possibly 6, CW, SSB and digital. To give financial support or

sponsorship: <http://www.revillagigedo2011.com/>. Licenses and permits have been tricky because it is a nature reserve. A "prestigious Mexican geologist" will accompany the team to do some studies and meet such government parameters. To follow it closely, "follow" EA4AK, <https://twitter.com/EA4AK>.

4W - East Timor.

VK8NSB, VK8FNCY, 9M6DXX, 9M6XRO and MW0JRX will be operating from Timor-Leste (East Timor) between 16 and 26 September 2011. The location will be Atauro Island, OC-232, 30km north of the capital, Dili.

The group is working closely with the Timor-Leste licensing authority and the DXpedition callsign will be announced soon.

There will be three stations, two using full licensed power linear amplifiers, and a third running 100W. Antennas will mainly be quarter-wave verticals and vertical dipoles, all located within a few metres of the ocean. For 160m an inverted-L will be used.

Activity will be on all bands 10 - 160m using CW, SSB and RTTY.

Atauro Island was chosen in order to provide a quiet location, well away from the electrical noise of down-town Dili. The beach-front site will also allow the group to put up vertical antennas right by the ocean, providing additional low-angle gain. In addition, the island counts as OC-232 and is part of a very rare IOTA group, having been confirmed by only 18% of active IOTA participants.

Accommodation on Atauro Island is very basic and will be in beach huts with no mains electricity or running water. All power for the DXpedition will be provided using hired generators. As such, the group will be requesting donations. A website will be available soon and further details will be published on the website.

QSL via M0URX, direct (SAE plus 1 IRC/\$2), via the bureau, or LoTW. Alternatively, QSLs may be requested using M0URX's OQRS form at www.m0urx.com/qsl-request-form

CY0 - Sable Island.

The CY0 Sable Island team has now set March 7-15 as their target. K8LEE, Wayne, has joined the operation, replacing WA4DAN, who withdrew due to business commitments. The group will travel to Halifax March 5 to complete final details. The charter flight is the 7th. <http://www.cy0dxpedition.com>. This will be the group's third attempt due to the previous weather delays. There were several successful supply flights to Sable over the last month, giving encouragement to the group that weather may cooperate this time. They have made a special effort to have flexible personal plans to be able to adjust to delays and wait them out.

5X1NH - Uganda.

G3RWF, Nick, will be returning to Uganda from February 20th until April 14. This is not a DXpedition as he will be doing voluntary work at a university, but will have plenty of Amateur Radio work as 5X1NH on 3.5 through 28 MHz. He does not have room for a 160 meter antenna and he is not licensed to operate on 6 meters. Thanks to G3PJT he'll have an amplifier, with more plans on 80 meters. QSL via G3RWF.

KH8 - American Samoa.

A team of Amateur Radio operators, including WA8LOW, Ron, will be QRV from American Samoa (KH8) from July 30th to August 14th. High power activity is expected on 1.8 through 50 MHz on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They will have verticals on 160 and 80 meters and beams on 40 through 6 meters. QSL via WA8LOW.

ZS8M - Prince Edward & Marion Island.

ZS8M, Pierre, reports the polar supply ship arrives March 15 and his SSB operation will probably end then. There is a possibility that PSK operation will continue until May.

The ZS8M operation will definitely end May 5 in any case, he says. That is the date for departing Marion Island for Cape Town, South Africa.

DXCC Top 338 Totals List.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has updated their "DXCC Top 338 Totals" list. This is a list of "the most submitted credits to DXCC". The number one DXCC entity being the one with the least number submitted and the most confirmed being # 338. This posting is through December

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

31, 2010 and does not include the four new PJ entities.

The Top 10 entities are:

1. P5 - North Korea
2. FJ - St. Barthelemy
3. KH8/S - Swains
4. BS7H - Scarborough Reef
5. 7O - Yemen
6. 4O - Montenegro
7. FK/C - Chesterfield Islands
8. BV9P - Pratas Island
9. 4W - East Timor
10. VU4 - Andaman Islands

Looking at this list one would wonder why some of these "easy countries" are in the top 10. There are probably at least two reasons.

First, and most important, is that this list takes data from when the ARRL DXCC Desk first went to computers and does not take into account Silent Keys and DXers who no longer participate in the DXCC program.

In the future the ARRL should seriously consider limiting the data to say the last two to five years. That is take into account only DXers who have submitted applications to DXCC within a shorter period, instead of the current system which probably dates back to the early 90s.

Yes there will also be some of the new countries that are near the top, because DXers have not made their submissions, but to keep the data input all the way back to the nineties just exacerbates the problem.

The most confirmed country - anybody - anybody?

Nope it is not the US! Yes, still Italy is the most confirmed DXCC Entity in Newington.

To see the complete list of "338" go to http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/Top338%202012_2010.pdf.

So now folks, that's about all for this issue.

I'd like to thank you all for your support over the past 5 year period and please, continue to spin that VFO and to call CQ occasionally. It now looks like cycle 24 is going to be a good one and for the 1st time in 5 years, we've had a sunspot count in excess of 100!!!! Things can only get better.

vy 73 es maybe see you on the bands??
de Dave EI9FBB

Radio to Natel: Marconi Foundation Ita Marguet, September 2010

In 2010 a new exhibition dedicated to the work of **Guglielmo Marconi** opened at the Marconi Museum, Salvan, Switzerland. It provides a retrospective on the origins of wireless transmission to the present with radios and photographs from 1895 to 1950, videos and sound recordings and includes a short walk around the local Marconi trail.

The small museum has been renovated in colourful and contemporary style culminating two months of preparation by workers of the Salvan Commune. Its modern conceptual and technical aspects were developed by a local company in the town of Martigny. In three sections, the themes are dedicated to Marconi and his family, Salvan in the nineteenth century and invention of wireless transmission by **Guglielmo Marconi**.

Rare and unique pieces of original equipment recently acquired by the Marconi Foundation are on display. An additional feature traces the history of wireless transmission from the first Audion amplifier in 1906 to the iPhone. The museum has a model of the first natel in 1978 weighing ten kilos at a cost of about 15,000 Swiss francs.

Marconi Foundation

Under Swiss legislation, the Foundation was established to promote the history, technical developments and progress of wireless communications from the visit to Salvan, Switzerland in 1895 of **Guglielmo Marconi**. It has published a number of papers and books about his experiments in Salvan and the wider world.

The Foundation is active in promoting contact and events amongst the scientific, international and local community.

In recent years Salvan has received many visits and prestigious awards that include commemorative plaques at the site of the Shepherdess Stone from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, IEEE (2003) and the International Telecommunications Union, ITU (2008).

The town has been recognised by this United Nations organisation as ... a 'cradle of telecommunications' and honoured by the first universal distinction of 'Telecommunications Heritage' and telecommunications patrimony.

The current exhibition continues to celebrate Guglielmo Marconi's short stay in Salvan, Switzerland in 1895 and his subsequent achievements paying homage to the award of the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics ... for important radio communications.

A book published in 2009 '**Marconi et Salvan: a l'aube de la telegraphie sans fil**', by Yves Fournier and Freddy Gardiol, adds to the worldwide collection of historic accounts, experiments and pioneering achievements of **Guglielmo Marconi** (1874-1937).

It features a collection of family pictures and other archival photographs, with technical charts and maps. Its content provides a wealth of information about his life and work.

Note: Acknowledgement is given to sources used in preparation of this text. It follows previous published articles on **Guglielmo Marconi** between 2004 and 2010 by Ita Marguet.

International Marconi Day
April 30th 2011



The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via e-mail to your home or office Monday through Friday and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 months.*

Get a free two weeks of The Daily DX or a free sample of The Weekly DX by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com.



Above the Horizon

with Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Unfortunately my time has been limited and I have not had much time in the shack or operating portable recently. Here is some info from various AMSAT sources via the internet that may be of interest.

AO-51 Power Management Enabled as Satellite Enters Eclipses

The AO-51 Control Team reported they enabled the power management function of the satellite in anticipation of eclipses which began at the end of December, 2010.

Command Team member Mark

Hammond, N8MH wrote, "You might see the transmitter power levels go UP and DOWN a bit as the battery voltage changes. We'll make some adjustments and tweaks to keep it from going UP and DOWN too often - but it's the way it's gonna work. In a few weeks we expect transmitter(s) to be OFF while in eclipse and ON when in the sun."

AO-51 users should expect adjustments and various power management schemes from now until the end of February when we'll again see full sunlight for a brief period. On December 28 the Command Team shut down the digital transmitter TXA (435.150 MHz). This is due to less sun (we are on the edge of eclipse). TXA off for the most part, except to collect telemetry. The 435.300 MHz repeater will be kept running as much as possible.



Arissat 1 in the ISS

The command team could really use your help. If you work AO-51 (or hear it) and there isn't a recent entry, please make a report entry on the OSCAR Status Page at <http://oscar.dcar.org>. Things are touch-and-go now that we are experiencing eclipses, and reports on the OSCAR Status Page that the bird is up and functional are extremely helpful.

The Command Team notes that expected behavior is for the transmitter to go OFF during eclipse, but eclipses are only a couple minutes or less at the moment.

ARISSat-1 Spacewalk from International Space Station will Air On NASA TV

Two Russian cosmonauts will step outside the ISS on Wednesday, Feb. 16th. They will install and retrieve experiments on the Russian segment of the complex and deploy the ARISSat-1 ham radio satellite. Live NASA Television coverage of the spacewalk will begin at 6:45 a.m. CST (UTC-6 hours).

In preparation for the spacewalk the crew members need to re-attach the handles, install the battery, and install flight antennas. They also will replace the Lexan solar panel covers with hook and loop quilted covers before the EVA on 16 February.

We expect to release the free ARIS-SatTLM software next week. This will demodulate, decode and display the BPSK-1000 telemetry and Experiment data as well as the CW signal.

Additional information about ARISSat-1 can be found at the ARISSat site: arisat1.org .

RSC Energia has information and photographs about the satellite on their news site.

The SpaceflightNow web site covered the Progress launch via a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur.

SpaceRef.com has photos showing KEDR, aka ARISSat-1 being loaded into the Progress cargo vehicle.

ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf V will have simultaneous 2m FM, CW, BPSK and transponder transmissions. These multiple transmissions are created by a new software defined transponder (SDX) board.

Features provided by the SDX include: The FM transmissions with cycle between a voice ID, select telemetry values, 24 international greeting messages in 15 languages and live SSTV images.

The CW transmissions will be callsign ID, select telemetry, and callsigns of people actively involved with the ARISS program.

The BPSK transmissions will feature a new 1kBPSK protocol developed by Phil Karn, KA9Q to be readable in low signal level conditions.

The BPSK data will alternate between telemetry and Kursk experiment data.

Free ground station soundcard demodulator and display software will be available before deployment for multiple computer platforms.

There also is a 16kHz wide amateur radio U/V transponder between the BPSK and FM signals.

The Kursk experiment will be sampling the amount of vacuum each day for 90 minutes and sending down data to map the vacuum change as the satellite slowly spirals into the atmosphere.

The six solar panels supply power to the satellite and recharge the battery. Once the battery is exhausted the satellite will continue to send data in a low power mode when illuminated.

The spoken telemetry values and greetings are to promote science and math education by encouraging school children to listen to the satellite, track its progress and plot the changes.

There are secret words in most of the greetings for which awards will be given to those correctly identifying these secret words. There will also be a contest to see who correctly copies the most CW call-signs sent.

The telemetry data will also be available live and over the Internet for schools and radio amateurs to study the operation and changes that the satellite experiences during its orbits around the earth.

Needless to say, the ARISSat-1 team is excited about all the effort being made by RSC-Energia to complete assembly and testing checkout aboard the ISS, and remains cautiously optimistic that all will continue to go according to schedule leading the EVA to release our satellite into orbit.

4 Metre (70 MHz) Band.

By Tony Allen EI4DIB.

I started into 4m in the early 1990's using simple ex-pmr radios like the Pye Olympic (Picture 1) and the Pye Europa (Picture 2). These were AM crystal radios mostly tuned up on 70.260 which is the AM 4m calling channel.

I used these radios as there was plenty of information available on converting them, the "Surplus Two Way Radio Handbook" by Chris Lorek G4HCL was very helpful to me back then, before the internet was available with all it's information.

Myself and Pat EI2HX used 4m quite a lot, both having Pye Olympics and running 8 watts on AM, many successful experiments took place. We found that 4 meters went round corners better than 2 meters and that terrain that we would not reach each other on 2m could be successfully managed on 4m.

The best contacts I can boast off at the time was a GI station up in Derry city and a station in Gibraltar. These contacts were done using the Pye Olympic running 8 watts and a folded dipole on the chimney of the house.

I moved house in 1995 and did not continue using 4m until I moved again in 2001, when I bought a Maxon 25 watt 16 channel radio (Picture 3) already converted to 4m from eBay. This was me back on 4m, although at this stage there was nobody local to talk to!!

I used a 3 element beam on the Maxon and made several nice regular contacts into the UK on this. The Maxon was limited to only 16 channels on the 4m band so I searched around and came across the Ascom SE-550 (Picture 4), this has the whole 4m band on it, runs 25 watts and has some nice features like direct frequency input, adjustable output power etc.

Again I used this radio on the 3 element beam and continued having contacts into the UK, but not too many local contacts. However, Pat EI2HX was getting interested in coming back on 4m again and he acquired an Ascom SE-550 along with a 4m folded dipole. Then Thos EI2JD set himself up on 4m. At least now I had someone local to chat to on 4m!!

I have experimented with many radios for 4m over the past few years, as well as the ones mentioned I have used the Simoco or Philips PRM80's (Picture 5). These are a good starter radio, they run 25 watts and depending on the eprom inside can have up to 100 channels.

I also found that my Yaesu FT-847 (Picture 6) also has 4m on it, all mode but only runs 15 watts on the band. At the minute I use that on a 4m folded dipole for local chat and experiments.

My main stand alone radio is an "Anytone AT- 5189" (Picture 7). This radio runs 45 watts out on 4m and has an array of such you would find on any modern 2m mobile radio. These are the first commercial 4m radio with the whole 4m band with so many features. The only previous 4m commercially available radio was the AKD 4001 which only covered 20 channels on the 4m band, and only showed channel numbers, not frequencies.

I use the Anytone AT-5189 on a 4m vertical up about 10m, the antenna is the Sirio CX-4-68 which has good gain. There is now quite a large gathering of operators on 4m in the north east and we have a local net on 70.400 Mhz FM most evenings.

Here is a list of those active on 4m:

1. Tony EI4DIB - Drogheda.
2. Anthony EI2KC - Drogheda.
3. Pat EI2HX - Drogheda.
4. Brian EI4KC - Drogheda.
5. Kevin EI5JG - Drogheda.
6. Sean EI4IP - Drogheda.
7. Tony EI6IK - Drogheda.
8. Charlie EI8JB - Slane.
9. Thos EI2JD - Clogherhead.
10. Derek EI7CHB - Skerries.
11. Aidan GI7FHC - Bessbrook.
12. Jim 2I0SBI - Warrenpoint.
13. Richard MI3CQR - Newry.
14. Ben EI4IN - Skerries.
15. Tom EI7HT - Dublin.
16. Ronnie EI9ED - Kells.
17. Peter EI4HX - Dundalk.
18. Mark EI9FX - Castlebellingham.

If you hear any of us on and would like to give us a call on 4m please feel free to give us a shout. If you do not have 70.400 we also monitor 145.400 or can be found on EI2CCR (145.675) and we can QSY to your frequency.

I also have a Blog which I update regularly with 4m info and review some of the equipment I use, this can be found at: www.ei4dib.blogspot.com

If you are interested in getting up on the 4m (70Mhz) band or would just like to know a bit more about it please feel free to email me at: ei4dib@gmail.com.



Pic. 1



Pic. 2



Pic. 3



Pic. 4



Pic. 5



Pic. 6



Pic. 7



Pic. 7

160m Coax Receive Only Loop Antenna

One of my favourite bands is 160m, but unfortunately this band, despite living in a rural location leaves me with quite a high noise level on receive. Trying to work weak stations in the DX portion of the band is virtually impossible so I put together this receive only coax loop antenna with a hope to improve matters. The beauty of this receive loop is that it can be mounted on a small rotator which can then be turned for maximum reception or to null out interference.

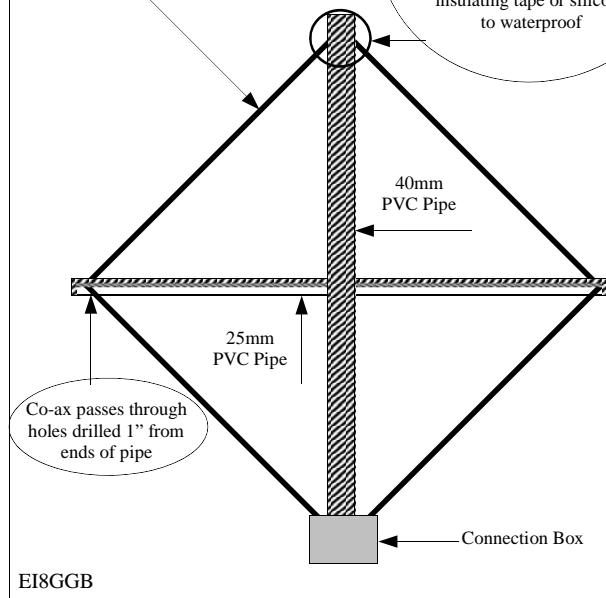
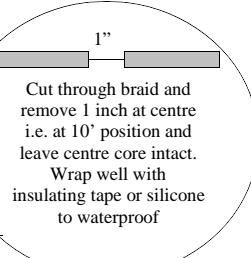
The loop is made of RG-6 75ohm TV coax, 20 feet in length. At the mid-point, 10 feet mark, the coax outer insulation and braid is removed for 1 inch (half inch either side of the mid-point). The inner core and insulation is left intact and the coax is wrapped well with insulating tape at this point.

The loop is formed into a diamond configuration, 5 feet per side, and held in place by using 2 pieces of plastic piping in the shape of a cross. I used ordinary PVC plumbing pipe but timber could also be used. At the ends of the pipes, I drilled a hole big enough to allow the coax to pass through, one inch from the end. The coax was then passed through these holes and glued in place. This serves two purposes, it holds the coax securely and it also makes the plastic pipes more rigid, see diagram for a more visual explanation. The two ends of the coax then pass into a metal connection box which is fixed to the vertical/mast pipe, and adequate strain relief and weather-proofing is used.

Inside the connection box I used a piece of single sided copper clad board to make the connections. The size of the board is unimportant, as long as it is big enough to mount the components and solder all connections to. The board does not have to be mounted to the box as long as the coax ends are secure. At the centre of the copper clad board a break is made by scoring two lines 4mm apart with a knife, the copper between these lines is then removed by whatever means you are happy with.

I soldered together several mica capacitors in parallel to give a

**160m Co-ax Rx Loop
RG-6 - 75Ω
Total length 20 feet
5 feet per side**



total of 650pF. These were then soldered across the break in the copper clad board and a 100pF trimmer capacitor is soldered across the break in parallel.

The inner cores of the coax are then soldered to the copper board, one end to either side. The braids of the two ends are fixed to the metal box by a ring connector and small nut and bolt.

At the bottom of the metal box I fixed a SO-239 socket to allow a length of 50 ohm coax back to the shack to be connected. A small wire goes from the centre pin of this socket to either side of the copper clad board, and the trimmer is turned for maximum reception noise.

I found using the combination of capacitance above I could get this loop resonant on a centre frequency of 1.846MHz, with the aid of an antenna analyser. To make the loop resonant on a different centre frequency the values of the capacitors could be experimented with.

As an optional extra (as I did) a small impedance transformer could be added to match to the 50 ohm coax to the shack (as per diagram). This transformer was made using a FT50-43 torroid core, using 12 turns on the primary and 6 turns on the secondary, wound with 24 swg enamelled copper wire. These values of windings may need to be played with for your own use. The impedance transformer was placed in circuit as follows – one end of the primary winding to the copper clad board, the other end to ground/metal box.

One end of the secondary winding to the SO-239 socket centre pin, the other end to ground/metal box.

I hope this brief explanation of my findings will be of use to you. The diagrams will probably be clearer than my rambling on!

Andy Hill EI8GGB

Operating Awards

Worked ITU Zones

This award is run by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) HF Awards Manager.

Application forms can be obtained by sending an A4 size SASE to the RSGB HF Awards Manager or by logging on the www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/hf/hfawards/witu.php

This award may be claimed by any licensed radio amateur eligible under the General Rules who can produce evidence of having contacted, since 15 November 1945, land based amateur radio stations in at least 70 of the 75 broadcasting zones as defined by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

The certificate holder may claim, on payment of a contributory charge, a handsome plaque with a plate detailing name, callsign, date and number of the award. Additionally, an amateur providing evidence of having contacted all 75 ITU zones may claim the Supreme Plaque in recognition of the magnitude of the achievement, again on payment of a contributory charge.

5 Band Worked ITU Zones (5BWITUZ)

This award, available in 5 classes, may be claimed by any licensed radio amateur eligible under the General Rules who can produce evidence of having contacted, since 15 November 1945, the required number of land based amateur radio stations located in the 75 ITU broadcasting zones, using all 5 bands, 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz.

Each station should be located in a different ITU zone per band.

The 5 classes are for contacts as follows:

5BWITUZ Supreme 350 zones

5BWITUZ Class 1 325 zones

5BWITUZ Class 2 300 zones

with a minimum of 50 on each band

5BWITUZ Class 3 250 zones

with a minimum of 40 on each band

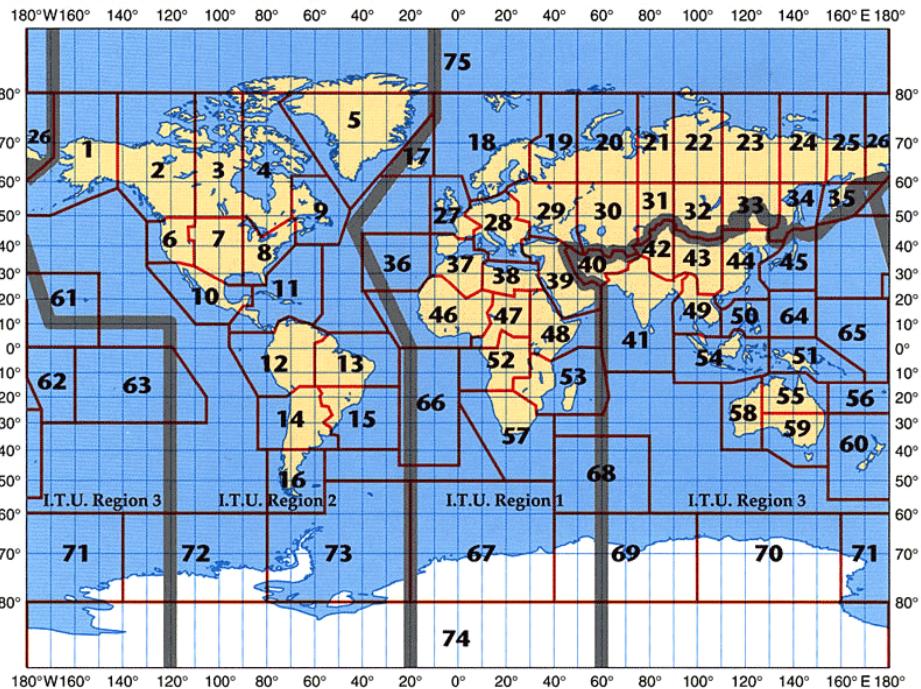
5BWITUZ Class 4 200 zones

with a minimum of 30 on each band.

Certificates will be issued to winners of all classes.

Also, as in the case of the WITUZ, winners of the Class 1 award may claim a handsome plaque suitably inscribed,

I.T.U. ZONES AND REGIONS



while winners of the Supreme Award will be eligible for the Supreme Plaque, both on payment of a contributory charge.

WARC Band Endorsement

A holder of the basic award who can produce evidence of contact with the required number of ITU zones on the 10, 18 and 24 MHz bands may claim a WARC Band "sticker" endorsement. This is available in 5 classes as follows:

5BWITUZ (WARC) Supreme 210 zones

5BWITUZ (WARC) Class 1 195 zones

5BWITUZ (WARC) Class 2 180 zones with a minimum of 50 on each band

5BWITUZ (WARC) Class 3 150 zones with a minimum of 40 on each band

5BWITUZ (WARC) Class 4 120 zones with a minimum of 30 on each band.

Top Band Endorsement

A holder of the basic award who can produce evidence of contact with the required number of ITU zones on the 1.8 MHz band may claim a Top Band "sticker" endorsement.

This is available in 5 classes for 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 zones.

Notes

(a) The number of ITU broadcasting (ie land) zones recognised by the ITU is 75 (zones 1 to 75) and this therefore is the maximum score which can be claimed per band.

However, the islands of Minami Torishima (JD1) and Salas-y-Gomez (CE0) lie outside the 75 zones in sea zones 90 and 78 respectively.

For 5BWITUZ (including endorsements) contacts with these islands may count in place of one "missing" credit each on any band up to the maximum 75 for that band.

Contacts with Minami Torishima or Salas-y-Gomez do not count for WITUZ.

(b) In the case of the WITUZ and 5BWITUZ confirmations need not bear the appropriate ITU zone number but in order to count for credit they should give the location of the station in sufficient detail to place it clearly within one particular zone.

Doubtful cases indicating possible overlap across two zones will not be given credit.

(c) The HF Awards Manager will use as his reference the list which is based on the Radio Amateurs Prefix Map of the World published by Radio Amateur Callbook, P.O. Box 2013, Lakewood, NJ 08701, USA.

In the case of countries which encompass two or more ITU zones, e.g. USA, Russia and Brazil, zonal boundaries will generally follow the longitude/latitude grid lines as shown in the map.

In the few instances of discrepancy between the map and the accompanying prefix/country list the decision of the HF Awards Manager will be final.

Enquiries to the RSGB HF Awards Manager John Dunnington G3LZQ Box-36, Gilberdyke, East Yorkshire HU15 2WX. England

or by e-mail: hf.awards@rsgb.org.uk

The ITU - International Telecommunication Union

By Rod W6ROD (from the IARU E-Letter January 2011)

If you were to ask most amateur radio operators what entity is responsible for granting privileges to use portions of the radio spectrum for amateur radio purposes the answer would likely be their own national telecommunication authority.

However, that's only partially true. The ultimate authority for the use of the radio spectrum is the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

It is desirable that each amateur radio operator understand what the ITU is and why its work and decisions are important.

Most countries are Member States of the ITU and by way of treaty generally agree to be bound by the decisions of the ITU when it comes to the usage of the radio spectrum. Each country can decide that a certain use determined by the ITU may not apply in their own jurisdiction.

It is not common for countries to do that but it is within their sovereign authority to do so.

United Nations Agency

The International Telecommunications Union is a United Nations agency that deals with information and communications technology issues. They have an extensive web site at www.itu.int that details much of their work.

The ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland and includes in its membership 192 Member States and more than 700 Sector Members and Associates.

ITU has coordinated the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promoted international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, worked to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world, established the worldwide standards that foster seamless interconnection of a vast range of communications systems and addressed other global concerns, such as mitigating climate change and strengthening cybersecurity.

The top staff official of the ITU is its Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Toure who is also a licensed radio amateur with the call sign HB9EHT.

There are three sectors in the ITU: Radio-communication (ITU-R), Development (ITU-D) and Standardization (ITU-T).



Committed to connecting the world
ITU is the UN agency for information and communication technologies

The IARU is a Sector Member in both the ITU-R Sector and the ITU-D Sector.

The IARU fully participates in both of those sectors by attending any and all meetings that involve issues that may impact the amateur or the amateur-satellite services.

The Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Directors of the three ITU Sectors are elected to four-year terms by the Member States at Plenipotentiary Conferences held every four years.

The IARU is a recognized international telecommunication organization and is invited to participate as an observer at the Plenipotentiary Conferences.

The most recent "Plenipot" was held in October, 2011 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The ITU Council was established in 1947 under the name Administrative Council, following a decision taken by the 1947 Plenipotentiary Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, United States. The Council comprises a maximum of 25% of the total number of Member States, which are elected by the Conference with due regard to the need for equitable distribution of Council seats among the five world regions (Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australasia).

The current Council is comprised of 48 members.

The role of Council is to consider, in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences, broad telecommunication policy issues to ensure that the Union's activities, policies and strategies fully respond to today's dynamic, rapidly changing telecommunications environment. It also prepares a report on the policy and strategic planning of the ITU.

In addition, Council is responsible for ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the Union, coordinating work programs, approving budgets and controlling finances and expenditures.

Finally, Council also takes all steps to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the *ITU Constitution*, the *ITU Convention*, the *Administrative Regula-*



**ITU Secretary-General
Hamadoun I. Touré HB9EHT**

tions (International Telecommunications Regulations and Radio Regulations), the decisions of Plenipotentiary Conferences and, where appropriate, the decisions of other conferences and meetings of the Union.

The IARU has attended several ITU Council meetings in the recent past.

The **ITU-R Sector** is very important for radiocommunication services, including the amateur and amateur-satellite services.

Every 4 or 5 years the ITU holds a World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) to revise the international Radio Regulations. It is the job of WRC to review, and, if necessary, revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

Revisions are made on the basis of an agenda determined by the ITU Council, which takes into account recommendations made by previous world radiocommunication conferences.

The general scope of the agenda of world radiocommunication conferences is established four to six years in advance, with the final agenda set by the ITU Council two years before the conference, with the concurrence of a majority of Member

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

States. The next WRC is scheduled for 23 January to 17 February 2012, just one year away.

Under the terms of the ITU Constitution, a WRC can:

1. revise the Radio Regulations and any associated Frequency assignment and allotment Plans;
2. address any radiocommunication matter of worldwide character;
3. instruct the Radio Regulations Board and the Radiocommunication Bureau, and review their activities;
4. determine Questions for study by the Radiocommunication Assembly and its Study Groups in preparation for future Radiocommunication Conferences.

There is a lengthy preparatory process for every WRC in which the IARU participates as a Sector Member. There are usually countless meetings dealing with each agenda item that has been determined to be on the agenda for a WRC. Many of those agenda items can, and do, have a substantial impact on the amateur radio usage of portions of the radio spectrum.

It is important for the IARU to participate to "protect our frequencies" and when the opportunity presents itself, to expand our spectrum.

ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties address each agenda item on the WRC agenda and try to arrive at a consensus and recommendation(s) how the agenda item may be addressed or dealt with at the WRC. Studies are conducted many times to determine how a proposed new usage may impact the other services, or not. Each of these agenda items are thoroughly discussed for at least a couple of years leading up to the WRC.

You can imagine how important it is for the worldwide amateur community that IARU participate in the entire study group/working party process.

ITU-D is where much of the ITU's work on disaster response takes place.

The development arm of the ITU considers emergency telecommunications an integral part of its projects integrating telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster

predication, detection, and alerting. Emergency Telecommunications play a critical role in the immediate aftermath of disasters by ensuring timely flow of vital information which is much needed by government agencies, and other humanitarian actors that are involved in rescue operations and providing medical assistance to the injured.

IARU's task in the ITU-D Sector is to ensure that amateur radio's role in disaster communications is understood and appreciated by the ITU members. The ITU-D Sector also conducts a worldwide conference. The current schedule calls for a World Telecommunication Development Conference every 4 years.

In 2010, the WTDC was held in Hyderabad, India in late May and early June. IARU participated in the conference.

The ITU also sponsors regional and global exhibitions called TELECOMS. An ITU Telecom offers a global ICT community platform that gathers stakeholders from across the telecommunications/ICT sector to connect, collaborate and create the future ICT landscape. Forums or seminars related to ICT are conducted at the Telecoms and IARU has participated in such forums, usually on topics related to emergency communications.

In one of the ITU buildings, there is a permanent amateur radio station, 4U1ITU.

4U1ITU is the club station of the International Amateur Radio Club.

In an upcoming IARU E-Letter, I will describe the organization of IARU and how it works within the ITU and the regional telecommunication organizations like CEPT, CITEL and APT to ensure amateur radio's continued place in the radio spectrum landscape.

73, Rod W6ROD

The IARU E-Letter is published on behalf of the Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union by the IARU International Secretariat. Editor: Rod Stafford, W6ROD, IARU Secretary.

How To Subscribe to This E-Letter
send an email to secretary@iaru.org
requesting that you be added to the distribution list.

Shannon Basin Radio Club Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Shannon Basin Radio Club was held in Roscommon on January 28th last.

The following officers were elected..

Chairman:	Pat EI9HX,
Secretary:	Brian EI8IU,
Treasurers:	Fergus EI6IB & Brian EI8IU
QSL Manager:	Richard EI5GGB.

The club would like to thank the outgoing officers.

Several new members attended and are very welcome to the club.

The next meeting will be held in Hannons Hotel Roscommon Town on Wednesday 23rd March at 20:30.



L to R: Anthony EI6GGB, Richard EI5GUB, Tim EI5GVB, Mick EI4AL, Brian EI8IU, Pat EI3DYB, Frank EI8GCB. SWL James.

Friedrichshafen Hamfest 2011

Volunteers Needed

In recent years, IRTS has mounted a stand at Europe's biggest ham fair held at Friedrichshafen in Southern Germany each June.

This years event is being held on June 24/26th and the Society is looking for volunteers to help man the stand over the three days.

If you are travelling and can spare an hour or two, please contact our PRO Seamus McCaig EI8BP on 087-2590691 or by email at smccague@eircom.net.

If you are travelling for the first time, you will be glad of the opportunity to take an occasional rest and to have a place to leave gear in safety.

There is a lot of walking involved.



Excerpt from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 013

I hope you all had a quite and uneventful Christmas, and I would like to wish you all a very happy and a peaceful new year, and hope that all you buy at the forthcoming rallies works.

You can never have enough.

As usual I have made the same New Year resolutions, not to buy anything I have 2 or 3 of.

I found some space for a project box or two just in case I see any must haves at the rally, as over Christmas, I did yet another stock take and found stuff I did not know I even had, so I won't have to buy too much at the rallies this year as all my stock bins are full.

You would think that with the dozens of different sizes of patch leads that you have, you would have years of stock to keep yourself supplied for all your projects, but after the project in the last issue, and its latest modification I used quite a few leads of around the same size and with the coaxial relay, and the now installed pre amp, I found out that a lot of leads the same size is not a bad thing after all.



Photo 1

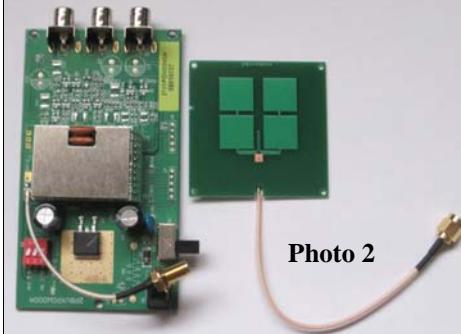
7 GHz

This project in this issue is of a 7 GHz transceiver. All the parts were collected over a period of a couple of years.

I bought the 7 GHz horn aerials about 3 years ago with the intention of removing their flanges and grafting on a smaller 10GHz horn aerial to convert them to 10 GHz and then I would have a good aerial setup for 10 GHz. (as I hadn't got any Tx or Rx equipment for 7 GHz yet).

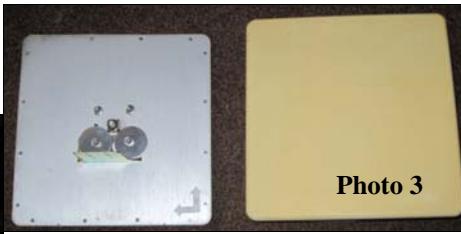
But at the next rally I was at, I saw and bought a couple of 10 GHz aerials, and the 7GHz ones went into stock.

The aerials were allowed to acquire some protective coating, (dust). A year later I came across a couple of transitions that would convert the flange at the end of the



aerial to a N type socket, and they would give me some leeway with the aerials and the connections on the Tx/Rx units as I did not know what connections would be used, but at least I had some more parts, but as yet, no Tx or Rx units.

After some more of the protective coatings had been laid down on the aerials and transitions (about 8 months worth) I came across some Tx/Rx units several rallies later, and I also purchased a 50mw amp.



The Tx and Rx boards came with a small panel aerial each (photo 2 above). I did a couple of test with the small panel aerial that came with them, and the horn aerials.

But for this test I would use the larger panel aerial photo 3 above shows the front and back of them. (Yes I have two of them) The tests I did involved leaving the RX board and the horn aerial on a 20ft (6m) pole, then using some dc and audio video cables connected to the video recorder. I had made sure everything was working before I left my home and that I was receiving a signal.

So, with the equipment pointing to a nearby hill, off I went. This would not be guess work as I had done a few experiments like this before; the location I was using was a piece of land beside the QTH of the late Dermot EI2AK. I would have loved to have been able to be doing the receiving and watching the signal as I drove along the route to the hill, but that would have been highly dangerous, and just a tad against our licensing conditions

about operating an unattended station. So off I went with the Tx signal blasting out the mega watts (photo 1 on the left shows the Tx/Rx without cables)) and with the Rx connected to the video recorder at home, recording my signal as I drove along the route to the top of the hill.

The Tx now has a power out put of 50mw, and the unit including the panel aerial was connected to the roof rack via cable ties (what would we and the police do without them). There is no picture of this as it was not a pretty sight, I would make a proper bracket later. I used a camcorder mounted on the dashboard at first and after a while I switched to the camera mounted on the towing eye of the car see photo 4 below. I would have a good idea looking back at the recording to see what the signals were like, how wide or narrow, and also how they would differ from the horizontal and vertical planes.

Alone all alone.

The RX and TX units have only 4 frequencies to play with, but this should not be too much of a problem as the band is a little quiet at the moment, both of signals and operators. so I had to send a signal to myself, (that's not the first time I have talked to myself and maybe not the last). I decided to place the parts in the one box and make it into a transceiver and terminated it with an N type socket; the end of the horn aerial is finished in waveguide so I connected an N type to wave guide transition. This was not as easy as it sounds because the holes in the mounting flange on the aerial did not match the holes in the flange on the transition.

After a talk with Michael EI5GG it was decided to make a plastic adaptor to hold the aerial and transition together and inline, while they were being marked for drilling, (the adaptor would be removed before final attachment).

This was a tedious job cutting and filing to get a tight fit so the flanges both line up and be drilled correctly. With that job done (a couple of hours later) the next job was to decide how to attach the transceiver to the aerial and then to a pole.

Photo number 5 shows the finished plate with all the gear attached. A couple of brackets were made to hold the transceiver to the plate rather than to bolt it direct to it as I only had the one Tx unit at the moment, so I could go portable, as well as operate from the home.

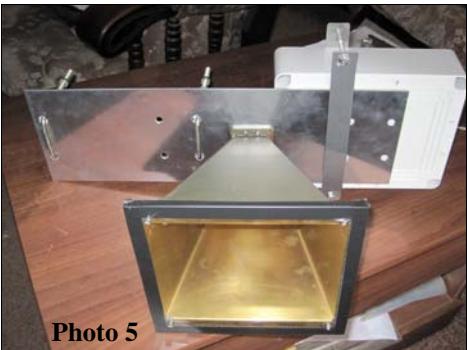


Photo 5

Another tricky job was the coaxial fly leads that were fitted to the boards; they had the SMA connectors the wrong way around (for me that is). I had a choice to change the lead or the relay, using the relay I have would mean using adapters. I had to decide what to do, to change the fly lead and to try and put a SMA chassis socket on the board, or failing that a SMA plug on a fly lead, or go with plan "A" and use the adaptors.

So plan "A" it was. The adaptors would do as a short term solution as I would be only doing a few tests and if I did not get a relay sooner rather than later I will have to get the soldering iron out and replace the fly leads.

Installing the parts wasn't too bad as the Tx/Rx boards were the same size and I decided to place one above the other using some small plastic spacers. It's always a problem what to do with all the connecting wires, whether to hide them or to leave them in view but tightly bound together so they look neat and tidy. It is nice to see but if you have to modify or replace parts you can find yourself making a new wiring loom, if you have put a chassis board in the box you can place the loose wires underneath and leave yourself with some room for manoeuvre if the worse happens.

That's all folks.

That's it for another issue. You can see this article and some more pictures on my blog page (thehxfiles.blogspot.co).

Once again a happy New Year and I hope all your signals will be P5.
73's de Pat.



Photo 4

ÍSLENSKIR RADÍÓAMATÖRAR (Í.R.A.)/ICELANDIC RADIO AMATEURS

P.O. Box 1058, 121 Reykjavík, Iceland (wwwира.is), (formadur@ира.is)

News Release Dated December 22nd 2010

The national association of Icelandic Radio Amateurs, Í.R.A., is pleased to announce that as of December 13, 2010 continued access for Icelandic licensees has been secured on the 500 kHz, 5 MHz and 70 MHz bands.

In a letter from the Icelandic Post and Telecom administration dated December 13, 2010 access to the 500 kHz and 70 MHz bands previously granted on February 19, 2010, and to the 5 MHz band, previously granted on January 1, 2008 – all due to expire on December 31, was extended for two years, to December 31, 2012.

Privileges and access to 500 kHz and 70 MHz remains unchanged (see below). Nevertheless, Í.R.A. is delighted to report that we have been granted **150 kHz** in the 5360-5410 kHz band, as a replacement for eight fixed channels, previously permissible. Maximum power allowed on 5 MHz was though reduced from 200W to 100W (20 dBW).

1. The 4 Metre Allocation: Frequency span: **70.000-70.200 MHz**.

Access is granted on secondary basis. Maximum bandwidth is 16 kHz and power limit is 100W. Licensees need to apply to the PTA for a special license. The experimental license is open to both "N" and "G" license classes.

2. The 60 Metre Allocation. Frequency span: **5.260-5.410 MHz**.

Access is granted on secondary basis. Permissible modes are J3E (USB) and A1A and maximum bandwidth is 3 kHz. Power limit is 100W. Licensees need to apply to the PTA for a special license.

The experimental license is open to both "N" and "G" license classes.

3. The 600 Metre Allocation. Frequency span: **493-510 kHz**.

Access is granted on secondary basis. Permissible mode: A1A.

Power limit is 100W. Licensees need to apply to the PTA for a special license.

The experimental license is open to both "N" and "G" license classes.

Confirming the above, I remain.

Respectfully yours, Jónas Bjarnason, TF2JB, President of Í.R.A.

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

February 2011

5-6	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Int. Winter Contest	SSB
5-6	Sat 1800 - Sun 1759	Mexico International RTTY Contest	RTTY
12-13	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQWW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
12-13	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Dutch PACC Contest	
25-27	Fri 2200 - Sun 2159	CQ 160m Contest	CW
26-27	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest	SSB
26-27	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA Contest	CW

March 2011

5-6	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest	SSB
12-13	Sat 1000 - Sun 1000	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW
12-13	Sat 1900 - Sun 1900	Idaho QSO Party	All
19-21	Sat 0200 - Mon 0200	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	RTTY
19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	DARC HF-SSTV Contest	SSTV
19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
26-27	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB

April 2011

2-3	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
9-10	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	JIDX CW Contest	
9	Sat 1600 - Sat 1959	EU Spring Sprint,	CW
16	Sat 0000 - Sat 2359	Holyland DX Contest	
16	Sat 1600 - Sat 1959	EU Spring Sprint	SSB
16-17	Sat 2100 - Sun 1700	YU DX Contest 2100Z	
23-24	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Int. Spring Contest	Digital
23-24	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	SP DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
23-24	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	Helvetia Contest	
25	Mon 1300 - 1500	IRTS 2m Counties Contest	SSB/CW/FM

Marconi Sites in Ireland

Crookhaven, Co. Cork

In 1902, a Marconi telegraphic station was established in the village of Crookhaven, County Cork, Ireland to provide marine radio communications to ships arriving from the Americas.

A ship's master could contact shipping line agents ashore to enquire which port was to receive their cargo without the need to come ashore at what was the first port of landfall.

Ireland was also, due to its western location, to play a key role in early efforts to send trans-Atlantic messages.

Clifden & Letterfrack, Co. Galway

As existing submarine cable operators in the early 1900s had held a monopoly on international telegraph service to Newfoundland, Marconi's first regular trans-Atlantic wireless service was established on October 17, 1907 between Derrygimla Bog, Clifden, Galway, Ireland and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

An additional Marconi receiving station in Letterfrack, Ireland had operated from 1913 until 1916.

On June 15, 1919, the first non-stop trans-Atlantic airplane crossing by Capt. John Alcock and Lt. Arthur Brown left Newfoundland and arrived at the Marconi site in Clifden, Ireland.

Ballybunion, Co. Kerry

Additional facilities were constructed at Ballybunion, Ireland in 1914 and employed during World War I. In March 1919, the first Marconi broadcast of voice by longwave radio, made from Marconi's station YXQ at Ballybunion using vacuum tubes instead of the spark gap transmitters formerly used in radiotelegraph operation, was heard as far as Chelmsford and Louisburg, Nova Scotia.

Howth Martello Tower

International Marconi Day takes place this year on Saturday 30 April.

The Howth Martello Radio Group will be participating once again as an award station using the call-sign EIOMAR.

EIOMAR operates from the Martello Tower overlooking the East Pier in Howth. The tower now houses a vintage radio museum. In 1905 the British Post Office carried out wireless telegraphy experiments at the tower in Howth using Marconi equipment.

Zulu's Go Back in Time Newgrange Activated in the Snow

On a bitterly cold morning on the 18th of December, 2010 the amateur portable group EI0Z were out and about once more to activate the world heritage site at Newgrange in County Meath, which was celebrating the winter solstice.

Newgrange is a 5000 year old monument situated in the picturesque Boyne Valley. Though known as a passage tomb it is believed now to be a temple and is known the world over for the winter solstice, when on the shortest day of the year the sun shines directly into the passage and lights up the chamber.

Access at this time is strictly controlled and the amateur portable group were very privileged to be invited to activate the monument on this occasion.

The morning started well with the thermometer reading -4 on departure from the QTH. With only two group members doing this activation myself, John EI6GHB and David EI7GEB ,we waited until the last minute to confirm the activation as the weather, as I'm sure everyone will remember, was terrible. With lots of snow on the ground and treacherous driving conditions, we wondered if we were mad, but this was too good to miss so we carried on.

Progress on the road was very slow but eventually, after a brief stop at the QTH of EI8JB for coffee and to settle the nerves, we arrived at the Newgrange site. After a warm welcome from the staff on duty, for which we are very thankful, we had a short QSO with Anthony EI2KC who had arrived independently to take some photos.



We set up our station, which on the day consisted of a Yaesu 897D and 6m fishing pole and a Kenwood TS50 and a 9m fishing pole with both radios running 100w from our trusty batteries.

The bands on the day were very poor but after being spotted on the cluster by an Italian SWL the pile-up began and worries faded as the log filled. The temperature stayed at -2 for the duration, and it felt it, but the scenery was fantastic, looking out at a snow covered Newgrange and glorious winter sunshine.

We closed the station down around 1pm but not before we logged Canada and North America, with one American station making the point that he had made contact on our last activation and he would be watching the cluster for our next one, no pressure!

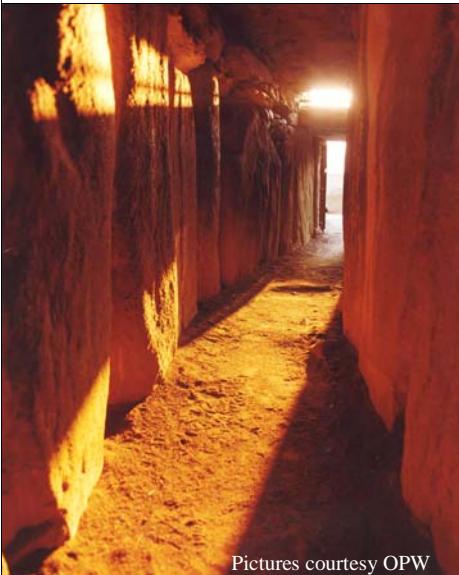
With the gear packed away and the hands beginning to warm up we gingerly picked our way along the icy roads and back to the safety and warmth of the QTH, and wondered were we mad, and the answer, maybe! but that's part of the fun going portable.

That was the last outing of the amateur portable group for 2010 and the coldest. Roll on 2011 and hopefully some fine weather for the events to come, and maybe some more EIs in the log.

Thanks to all the people that made this event possible.

Newgrange is well worth a visit, especially if you've never been there before and all the information you need is at Newgrange.ie

John EI6GHB



The Incoming QSL Bureau

By Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

As I write these words it is only a few days before the start of the 2011 rally season at Coolmine.

I was asked to explain how the QSL card incoming bureau works when I was at a recent meeting in one of my local radio clubs.

I told the people that when the QSL cards arrive at PO Box 462 Dublin 9, they can be in packages less than 1 kg and as much as 20 kg, or to put it another way from a couple of hundred to several thousand cards.

In the packages that arrive, the QSL cards are mixed up as much as it is possible, by that I mean all the cards for all EI's from the SWL's to the 0's to 9's are mixed together, upside down back to front, ie in rag order.

They are first sorted out by Michael EI2CL into piles of the different numbers and then bagged.

Then they are picked up by me a couple of days before all the IRTS committee meetings and handed over to the sub-managers present, the remainder of the cards are then sent by me to the other sub-managers over the next couple of days.

The sub-managers job is then to sort his pile into the various call signs both members and non-members and then the cards are sent to the I.R.T.S. members, the non-members QSL cards are sent to the outgoing manager Tony EI 8 JK throughout the year, as the managers holds onto them for a few months just in case of a re-joiner or new member.

In those cases the sub-manager will look in their non-members tray for any that may be there.

When Tony gets them, he puts them with the other outgoing cards into the pigeon hole for that country and when that pile is ready for posting Tony sends them back to the sender, each non-members card

will have been stamped and ticked by the sub-manager.

The stamped card will say reason for return, callsign unknown, non member, silent key and other, some returned cards from other bureaus I have seen even had a box for "not wanted" on them.

If the committee meeting is only a few

- **If you do not want cards say so when in QSO and put in in your QRZ.com entry.**
- **If you run a special event station, tell the appropriate sub-manager.**
- **If you change your callsign, tell the sub-manager.**
- **Non-members cards take up a lot of time and cost the Society. Please ask any non-members you know to state that they do not use the buro when in QSO.**

days away from a rally, I will bring the unsorted cards to the rally and give them to the sub manager if they are there, and if not I will send them to him the day after the rally.

Most times at the rally I am asked "are there any cards for me" and if the sub-manager is there with his cards you will get them, other times I will say that "that sub-manager is not here, but I do have some unsorted cards if you wish to have a look yourself you can".

When that person looks at the large bag of cards he may take a step back and say he will wait for the postman. Some brave souls delve in and go through the cards for their own, some are rewarded and others have a fruitless search.

On a serious note I do not let people have the bag of cards lightly, as even in this age of virtual cards people prize their paper cards and proudly display them on their shack walls or in custom albums. I make sure that I have noted if someone has taken some for themselves and/or for another callsign.

The policy for the QSL sub-managers is to send the QSL cards out every two

months, in the event of only one or two in the envelope he may wait for the next batch and then send them to you as 7 or 8 can be sent for the same price as 1 or 2.

The sub-managers are not duty bound to attend any rally with the QSL cards bagged and tagged.

They do send the cards out to the members and if you did not get any in the last few months, well shock and horror, or gosh and darn if you prefer, there may be none for you, as the other station may not have sent them yet.

Some bureau's may only send their cards to Ireland a couple of times a year, so as for that QSO you had on the 01-01-2011, their QSL card may get to the I.R.T.S. bureau in the latter half of the year, (and that would be a quick reply) and then to you very soon after that.

To help us help you get your QSL cards please let the sub-managers know your old callsign when you get a new one, as he may wonder why the wrong numbers are mixed in with his lot and he will send them back to me, and thus delay them getting to you.

Also let us know your special event and club callsign. If you do not want or collect QSL cards then you could do worse than go on to QRZ.COM and let it be known that you do not want any QSL cards.

A full list of the QSL sub-managers with their contact details can be found as always inside the front cover of Echo Ireland.

One final thing, the sub-manager does all this for free, in his own time and as those people who have gone through the bag of unsorted cards at a rally know, that it takes more than "10 minutes" to sort out several thousand QSL cards, put them into their envelopes, and mail them to you .

73's de Pat EI 2 HX,

IRTS Committee Meeting

Saturday March 12th

at 1100

Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise

I.R.T.S. Buro

Returned for the following reason

Callsign Unknown

Non Member

Silent Key

Other



Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

Results 80m Counties January 2011

A SSB Fixed

EI8CE	Aidan McGrath	Points	QSO	Counties	QTH
EI9HX	Patrick O'Connor	9,464	113	28	ROS
EI7CD	Sean Nolan	9,030	88	30	DUB
EI3GRB	Bob Muir	8,540	92	28	CLA
EI50UN	Irish Air Corps	8,463	78	31	DUB
EI9CJ	Tom McDermott	8,148	78	28	LOU
EI2KA	Tim McKnight	7,924	82	28	COR
MI0TMW	Merv Wylie	7,812	87	28	ANT
EI0Z	Amateur Portable Group	7,482	75	29	MEA
EI5GHB	John Walsh	6,916	67	28	MAY
EI3FFB	Eamonn Kavanagh	6,850	82	25	TIP
G6MC	Neil Clarke	6,750	67	27	UK
EI6GCB	Oliver Whelan	6,723	72	27	LAO
EI2II	Enda Broderick	6,561	69	27	GAL
EI6DL	Anthony Magliocco	6,467	60	29	WES
M0DDT	Colin Potter	5,952	62	24	UK
EI5FQB	Clifford Beck	5,775	60	25	OFF
EI2KD	Rodney Roulston	5,474	67	23	DON
MN0RCF	Lough Erne ARC	5,448	65	24	FER
EI9KC	Ark Szpunar	5,434	59	26	KLD
EI7CC	Peter Ball	5,267	67	23	DUB
GI4SZW	Seamus Keenan	5,232	59	24	ARM
EI9FVB	Declan Horan	4,850	55	25	CLA
EI3ENB	Paul Norris	4,725	51	25	KLK
M0DXD	Paul Dumpleton	4,692	51	23	UK
GI4AAM	Bill Langtry	3,906	55	21	DOW
EI1DG	Paddy McGrath	3,887	46	23	DUB
EI4HX	Peter Grant	3,654	51	21	LOU
EI8JA	John McCarthy	3,040	44	20	KLK
EI7GK	Padraig O Meachair	2,700	36	20	WIC
EI3FEB	Andrew McCormack	2,420	33	20	GAL
EI4IR	P J O'Neill	2,337	33	19	WES
GI0OND	James Lappin	2,223	30	19	ARM
EI8BP	Seamus McCague	2,180	28	20	MON
MI5MTC	Michael Clarke	2,090	29	19	FER
MI0RRE	Robbie Rantin	1,656	23	18	ARM
G4IDF	Dave Hobro	1,632	24	17	UK
M0NNH	Gary Bansil	1,590	31	15	UK
EI6CZ	Rolande E Hall	1,455	28	15	CLA
M0TDE	Triode ARG (Nigel Knapton)	1,440	24	15	UK
EI6GGB	Anthony Dolan	840	19	12	ROS
M1JK	John Kelly	484	13	11	UK
MI0DWE	David Eames	156	8	6	FER
G0FPU	Mike Densham	16	2	2	UK

C) SSB/CW Fixed

EI4GXB	Ger McNamara	Points	QSO	Counties	QTH
EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	10,770	113	30	LOU
EI8IU	Brian Canning	9,072	90	28	LEI
EI2GLB	Trevor Dunne	6,525	71	26	KLD
EI4BZ	Dave Moore	6,175	79	25	COR
EI7GY	Joe Ryan	6,075	69	25	DUB
EI2KC	Anthony Murphy	3,256	46	22	LOU
EI4II	Bernard Gondard	2,375	44	19	WEX
G0VQR	Thomas Canon	2,232	33	18	UK
EI9ES	Peter Morrison	1,853	31	17	DUB
SM5DQE	Lars Dahlgren	168	7	6	Sweden

D) SSB Only Portable

EI7MRE/P	Mayo REN	Points	QSO	Counties	QTH
	EI2GCB, EI9JA, EI9JS	6,507	64	27	MAY

Check Logs

EI7JG, EI2HX, EI9JO, MI6RAX

Stations by County IRTS 80m Counties Contest January 2011

Antrim	GI0RQK, GI4ERM, GI8SKN, MI6ETE, GI7AXB GI4SRQ, MI0TMW, GI0DPV
Armagh	GI4SZW, GI4SRQ, MI0RRE, GI0OND
Carlow	EI4GYB
Cavan	—
Cork	EI2KA, EI4BZ, EI3BF, EI6AK, EI3GDB, EI9FBB
Clare	EI4GXB, EI9FVB, EI3GRB, EI5CA, EI6CZ
Derry	GI7VZW
Donegal	EI2KD, EI8JF, EI6GRB, EI8GP
Down	GI4AAM, MI0BPB
Dublin	EI1DG, EI2CC, EI2CL, EI2CR, EI50UN, EI7CC, EI7CD, EI7GY, EI7JG, EI9ES, EI4DJB
Fermanagh	MI0DWE, MI5MTC, MI6RAX, MN0RCF
Galway	EI2II, EI3CG, EI3FEB, EI8DRB
Kerry	EI9JO, EI6AH, EI2GLB, EI9KC
Kildare	EI3ENB, EI8JA, EI/M1MRB, EI9GIB
Kilkenny	EI6GCB
Laois	EI8IU, EI7CS
Limerick	EI8GZB, EI4GJB, EI9IL, EI6IW
Longford	EI2FD, EI3GTB
Louth	EI2JD, EI2KC, EI2HX, EI4HX, EI9CJ, EI4KC
Mayo	EI5GHB, EI7MRE, EI7FAB, EI/G7NRO, EI3JM
Meath	EI0Z, EI6DN, EI9HC, EI3GIB,
Monaghan	EI8BP, EI7JT
Offaly	EI5FQB, EI2GE
Roscommon	EI6GGB, EI9HX, EI3HA
Sligo	EI8BEB
Tipperary	EI3FFB, EI9GBB, EI8GQB, EI2IT
Tyrone	GI4DYE, GI4VKS
Waterford	EI8CE, EI7IS, EI8HL
Westmeath	EI4IR, EI6DL
Wexford	EI4II
Wicklow	EI7GK, EI4CP

EI Records in CQWW WPX SSB

Category	Call	Year	Score	Mult
Multi-Operator				
Multi-Multi	no entry			
Multi-Two	EI9E	2010	10,687,157	1,153
Multi-Single	EI7M	2006	11,877,888	1,216

Single Operator - High Power

High All	EI4DW	2000	2,905,104	696
High 10m	EI8GS	1991	2,947,605	565
High 15m	EI4VFM (G3YOG)	1989	160,310	205
High 20m	EI4GYB	2010	1,867,832	664
High 40m	EI6JK	2010	1,333,710	522
High 80m	EI7M (LY3MM)	2010	3,527,075	731
High 160m	EI7M	1992	48,168	108

Single Operator - Low Power

Low All	EJ8GQB (ON4EI)	2010	1,819,375	625
Low 10m	EI8GP	2001	1,081,442	382
Low 15m	EI4CF	2005	153,232	244
Low 20m	EI4CF	2004	595,518	462
Low 40m	EI/DL5AUA	2005	3,220	35
Low 80m	EI9JN	2005	101,332	188
Low 160m	no entry			

Single Operator - QRP

QRP All	EI4II	2010	52,152	164
QRP 10m	no entry			
QRP 15m	EI4GXB	2010	5,080	40
QRP 20m, 20m, 40m, 80m, 160m	- no entries			

Single Operator Assisted - High

High All	EI2CN	2008	939,875	515
High 10m	no entry			
High 15m	no entry			
High 20m	EI9HX	2010	2,452,703	761

Single Operator Assisted - Low

Low All	EI7GL	2001	79,674	147
Low 10m	no entry			
Low 15m	EI4CF	2010	282,555	315
Low 20m, 40m 80m, 160m	- no entries			



World Wide WPX Contest

for the Multi-Operator
 Single-Transmitter division for #1 in Ireland

A Total score of **4,811,840** points was computed on the basis of the number of stations worked and call sign prefixes contacted. In witness of this achievement, we hereby affix our signatures on this day.

R. Hallinan K5BD *S. J. Moore W2VV*
CQ WPX Contest Director Editor, CQ



EI Results in CQWW WPX SSB 2010

	Score	QSOs	Mults
Multi-Op Two			
EI9E	10,687,157	3824	1153
Multi-Op			
EJ6DX	4,811,840	2610	880
EIØW	1,614,150	1377	63
Single Op			
EI7JQ	A	136,038	326
EI4GYB	14	1,867,832	1360
EI/EA3BOX	14	714,525	909
EI6JK	7	1,333,710	1034
EI7M (EI3JZ)	3.5	3,527,075	1583
*EJ8GQB	A	1,819,375	1220
*EI4GNB	"	295,680	436
*EI4GAB	"	85,459	216
*EI7CC	"	61,944	199
*EI4HQ	"	57,275	172
*EI6JY	"	36,765	152
*EI4DJB	"	21,597	88
Single Op Assisted			
EI9HX	14	2,452,703	1580
*EI4CF	21	282,555	483
QRP			
EI4II	A	52,152	192
EI4GXB	21	5,080	46
Check Log			
EI7JK			
* = Low Power			

Congratulations to the crew at EI9E who entered as the EI multi-two station and finished in the European top 10. Congrats also to Stan EI6DX who with Mike UA1OMX set a big score in the multi single section from the Aran Islands.

This years CQWW SSB WPX contest will be held over the weekend of March 26/27th

Thirty Years On

Tony Breathnach EI5EM

I cannot believe that it is now over thirty years since I acquired my first call-sign, EI6AEB.

I had been an SWL for as long as I can remember, thanks to my late father's interest in radio. He, born in 1910, had been an SWL from boyhood and was particularly interested in listening to shortwave broadcast stations.

From an early age I was hooked and have so many pleasant memories of the pair of us listening in together and then sending off reception reports in anticipation of receiving QSLs. When I was a teenager, I became interested in construction and built many different kits and projects.

In the mid 1970s, I saved up to buy my first commercial receiver, a Yaesu FRG7, from Taheny's in Sligo. It was while using this set that I first heard local chit chat on 27 Megahertz. I just had to have one of those CB rigs. My sister brought two SSB sets back from the USA for me. I cringe now when I think of the lingo we used on the CB band back then.

I eventually traded in the FRG7 for a Yaesu FT101ZD transceiver and changed the crystals in the 10 metre band for 11 metre crystals.

Of course it was illegal and I suppose that all made it more exciting. There were so-called technical experts on the air who were looked up to as gurus. However, some were false gods, had limited knowledge or were just plain spoofers. Others used the band to conduct business as suppliers of CB equipment, often ambushing



new operators and selling them bits and bobs that they really didn't need.

There was great camaraderie among CBers and several clubs were formed. I was a member of the 27 Club which usually met in the West County Hotel in Chapelizod. It was through CB that many good amateurs came into the hobby.

I became more and more interested in the technical aspects of radio and as solar activity began to decline at the end of the 1970s, I realised that if I was to continue DXing I would have to use lower frequency bands. There was only one way to achieve this and that was to go for the Experimenter Examination.

In September 1979 I enrolled in classes in Fingal Radio Club. The tutors were Dick Wilson EI9CC, Sean Nolan EI7CD and Sean Linehan EI7CV. Each Monday night, the car park in Beneavin College, where classes took place, was bristling with mobile CB antennas as most of the students were CB operators.

The new B licence had just been introduced and it was no longer a requirement to pass the Morse test to get a licence for VHF and UHF. The examination took

place in the spring of 1980 and I was issued with the call-sign EI6AEB in September of the same year.

More recent licensees will not believe the amount of two-metre activity that took place back then. The Dublin repeater EI1DK had recently been commissioned and there was a lot of mobile activity. Who can remember the "road runners" during morning and afternoon rush hours? There could at times be up to ten stations in round robin mobile QSOs and a lot of simplex activity to boot. The late Bob GW3LFC was the most famous "road runner" as he drove to and from work on the Lleyn peninsula in North Wales.

I invested a lot in setting up a good two-meter station with a 10-XY rotatable antenna and a Microwaves Modules transverter, which I used with my Yaesu FT-101ZD. Of course, I had to reinstall the original 10 meter crystals. I worked lots of great European DX with that setup on VHF.

However, I missed the intercontinental DX that I had been used to on CB. There was only one thing for it and that was to pass the 12 wpm Morse code test to access the HF bands. Our Morse tutor in Fingal Radio Club was the late Jimmy Upton EI8Z. I never renewed my EI6AEB call-sign as I got my EI5EM call-sign in September 1981.

At that time new A licensees were confined to the 7 and 14 Megahertz bands for the first 12 months using CW only with a maximum power limit of 25 Watts. I considered this a nuisance and it posed a dilemma for me. I had simply looked on passing the Morse as a means to an end, being more interested in making contacts on phone.



(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)

I had two options. I could sit tight for the year and wait for full phone privileges or else use my FT101ZD within my licence conditions.

I decided to give the CW a bash. Every day in that first year I attempted to have at least three CW QSOs under my belt. After the first few anxious weeks, I realised that CW could be enjoyable.

It was nice after the year elapsed to have access to more HF bands, but I found that I felt no great urgency to use SSB. I was totally sold on the CW and remain so to this day.

In the early 1980s I dabbled a bit with RTTY, constructing a modem and interface for my Sharp MZ-80K computer with technical advice from Tony Enright EI6DT. This computer had all of 48K of memory, no hard-drive and programs were loaded from cassette tapes. It worked very well.

However, as I was not a good typist, I spent most of my time watching other QSOs taking place and I soon tired of that mode as I did later with Packet. CW was my preferred mode.

I joined North Dublin Radio Club in 1982. At that time the club was a hive of activity. There were construction projects, theory classes, Morse classes and the club's rig was always on the air and in great demand.

The late Colm Ardiff EI3H often brought his Vibroplex bug-key and put us newly-licensed operators through our paces with fast Morse practice sessions.

Home-construction was another interest of mine.

I was a real enthusiast. ATUs, SWR meters, test equipment, rigs, amplifiers. I built them all. The enthusiasm has waned a little in recent times and the eyesight is not as good as it once was. Maybe I have become a little lazy too!

In 2003 I became involved with the vintage radio museum in Howth.



Wicklow Gap during Lugnaquilla Walk Early-Mid 1980s

Joe Dillon EI4FV was organising a special event station to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Lee De Forest's wireless telegraphy experiments from the Martello Tower that now houses the museum.

The British Post Office also carried out wireless experiments from the Martello in 1905 using Marconi equipment.

Following on from this, the Howth Martello Radio Group was formed and issued with the EI0MAR call-sign.

The station has participated as an Award station for several years on International Marconi Day.

We hope to be active on the 30th of April this year also.

The group is ever so grateful to Pat Herbert, the curator, for allowing us to set up the permanent amateur station in the museum.

It is a great honour and privilege to operate from such an historic location.

The website is www.ei0mar.org

So much has happened in those past thirty years and they have passed by so quickly.

Over that period, I have derived great pleasure and enjoyment from the hobby and made many friends.

Long may God spare me to enjoy it further!

de Tony (EI5EM)

ei5em@eircom.net

Radio News Editor



Aidan Noone EI7JC has taken over the position of Radio News Editor and he can be contacted at the usual address of:

newsteam@irts.ie
or by phone at 085-7100511

Our sincere thanks to the outgoing news editor Charlie EI8JB for his excellent bulletins over the past years.

IRTS Web Site

Club information on the IRTS web site is out of date in many cases.

Club secretaries are asked to have a look at their club's entry on the IRTS Website and contact Séamus EI8BP, the Web Editor by email at ei8bp@eircom.net with any changes.

It is important that the website accurately reflects the current club situation.

Call Signs by County IRTS 80m Counties Contest January 2011

Dublin	11	Down	2
Antrim	8	Kerry	2
Cork	6	Kildare	2
Louth	6	Leitrim	2
Clare	5	Longford	2
Mayo	5	Monaghan	2
Armagh	4	Offaly	2
Donegal	4	Tyrone	2
Fermanagh	4	Westmeath	2
Galway	4	Wicklow	2
Kilkenny	4	Carlow	1
Limerick	4	Derry	1
Meath	4	Laois	1
Tipperary	4	Sligo	1
Roscommon	3	Wexford	1
Waterford	3	Cavan	—



EI's on EQSL (as at February 8th 2011)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

DXCC Confirmed		54	EI8BLB	Worked All Zones
224	EI7BA (+5)	52	EI4GMB	40 EI0CZ
178	EI9FBB (+5)	52	EI8H (New)	40 EI4CF
174	EI3IO	50	EI6AK	40 EI7BA
171	EI4CF	50	EI6GGB	40 EI7JN (+18)
170	EI2JD (+5)	49	EI1429	40 EI9FBB
164	EI7CC	49	EI2FSB	40 EJ9FBB
158	EI0CZ	47	EI8JW	39 EI2JD
150	EI9FBB	46	EI/DK2AT	39 EI3IO
148	EI9HX	43	EI7IS	39 EI8GS (+1)
147	EI6IZ	43	EI9KC (+23)	39 EI9HX
147	EI9O (+11)	42	EI4DIB	39 EI9JU
133	EI7JN (+17)	42	EI5IX	39 EI9O
132	EI8GS (+7)	41	EI3EBB	37 EI7JZ
130	EI9JU	41	EI4IR	36 EI1DG (+2)
124	EI1DG (+6)	39	EI0CPL	36 EI2KC (+10)
121	EI9FVB	39	EI1KARG (+5)	34 EI3GYB
117	EI6HB	39	EI3GAB (+2)	34 EI5IF
116	EI6AL (+6)	39	EI6IF	33 EI5GM (+2)
115	EI3GYB	37	EI7GM	33 EI7CC
109	EI5IF	37	EI9GSB	32 EI4BZ
108	EI7JK (+10)	35	EI1571 (+2)	32 EI4GNB
107	EI8FH	34	EI5HV (+4)	32 EI6AL
105	EI0W (+5)	32	EI90GPO	32 EI9FVB
105	EI7DAR (+5)	30	EI7CHB	31 EI0W (+1)
105	EI8IU (+1)	28	EI4IN	31 EI6JK
104	EI4GXG	28	EI5GB	31 EI8FH
103	EI5GM	27	EI3GDB	30 EI5GJB (New)
102	EI6JK	26	EI7IW	30 EI4GXG
102	EI9HQ	25	EI2FS	28 EI4GMB
101	EI4BZ	24	EI/G4DDL	25 EI2GLB
96	EI2KC (+10)	24	EI3FFB	17 EI7GSB (New)
94	EI3HA (+2)	24	EI8GNB	15 EI8JB
94	EJ3HA (+3)	22	EI1NC	13 EI4DIB
92	EI9HQ	20	EI2IV	
88	EI4GNB	20	EI8GGB (New)	Worked Prefixes
87	EI2GLB (+5)			1,337 EI4CF (+16)
87	EI4HQ (+15)			1,131 EI2JD (+20)
86	EI4HH	50	EI4CF	1,015 EI7CC (+37)
86	EI9ES	50	EI8GS	998 EI9FBB (+17)
85	EI5GJB (+5)	50	EI9FBB	970 EI6JK (+11)
84	EI5GUB (+7)	50	EI9FBB	957 EI8GS (+3)
83	EI7IX (+3)	50	EI9HX	948 EI7DAR (+16)
82	EI2II (+9)	50	EI9JU	945 EI0W (+13)
81	EI8IQ (+3)	50	EI9O	886 EI9JU (+6)
76	EI7JZ (+4)	49	EI2JD (+2)	881 EI0CZ (+60)
76	EI8JR	49	EI7JN (+2)	860 EI9HQ (+6)
74	EI8DL (+1)	49	EI9HQ	829 EI3IO (+2)
71	EI3IS	49	EI9HQ	752 EI4GXG (+18)
71	EI8HL	48	EI6HB	749 EI7BA (+22)
71	EI9CF	47	EI3IO	646 EI7JK (+38)
69	EI8GP	45	EI0CZ	627 EI4BZ (+7)
68	EI/DH0GSU/p	45	EI4BZ	621 EI9FVB (+4)
68	EI8JB (+2)	45	EI4IS (New)	551 EI1DG (+60)
67	EI7FBF	45	EI5GM	526 EI5GM (+19)
66	EI7IM	45	EI7BA	521 EI5IF (+8)
65	EI7M	45	EI8GP	507 EI9O (+36)
65	EI8DD	43	EI0W	493 EI4GNB (+4)
64	EI9FV	43	EI7DAR	466 EI8FH (+11)
63	EI7GSB (+6)	41	EI4GNB	465 EI2KC (+63)
62	EI5GSB	41	EI5IF	405 EI9JM (+2)
62	EI3JB	40	EI4GXG	399 EI8JB (+16)
61	EI4IS	40	EI7CC	397 EI8IQ (+12)
61	EI9EW (+2)	40	EI9HW	388 EI5GJB (New)
61	EI9JM	36	EI2KC (+3)	384 EI8GP (+4)
60	EI5EV (+3)	32	EI6JK	345 EI3HA (+18)
60	EI6ARB (+4)	31	EI4GMB	336 EI7GSB (+39)
58	EI6IL	30	EI9ES	295 EI8IQ (New)
58	EI9JF	29	EI9FVB	237 EI2GLB
57	EI8JK	27	EI7GSB (New)	213 EI7JN
56	EI7BMB	26	EI6AL	200 EI4GMB
55	EI5HE	26	EI9JM	110 EI4DIB
55	EI6CPB	15	EI8JB	75 EI1429
54	EI7IQ	13	EI2GLB	60 EI7IW

EI DXCC Listings (February 8th 2011)

DXCC Challenge	286	EI3GV	130 EI4BZ
2,395	EI7BA (+169)	284	EI9FBB
1,933	EI9FBB	264	EI4GK
1,812	EI3IO (+1)	249	EI8GS
1,582	EI7CC	242	EI2JD
1,469	EI6FR (+85)	226	EI9FVB
1,181	EI6IZ (+95)	225	EI9JF
1,144	EI2JD	213	EI7GL
1,026	EI9JF	200	EI6IL
		188	EI2CH
		186	EI7II
DXCC Honor Roll		177	EI9FE
Mixed		177	EI9FE
338	EI6FR/341	169	EI4BZ
335	EI2GS/340	162	EI4HH
335	EI6S/351	153	EI8IU
335	EI7CC/347	151	EI9E (+3)
335	EI7BA/337	142	EI6HB (+34)
331	EI8H/356	129	EI9HQ
Phone		114	EI4EX
334	EI6S/348	105	EI1CS
333	EI2GS/338	105	EI9HX
333	EI7CC/345	101	EI3IP
329	EI8EM/334	29	CW
Mixed		323	EI7BA (+5)
356	EI8H	316	EI7CC
351	EI6S	281	EI6FR (+7)
347	EI7CC	267	EI9FBB
341	EI6FR	253	EI9JF
340	EI2GS	238	EI6IZ (+8)
337	EI7BA (+3)	230	EI4BZ
323	EI3IO	208	EI2JD
306	EI2HY	163	EI8IU
301	EI9FBB	155	EI1DG
287	EI9JF	122	EI5GM
271	EI9O (+1)	119	EI7GY
271	EI9O (+1)	109	EI2IH
269	EI2CR	109	EI4HM
262	EI2GX	107	EI/GM4ARJ
262	EI2JD	100	EI6AL
255	EI5GM		RTTY/Digital
253	EI6IZ (+7)	249	EI8GS
242	EI4BZ	153	EI1DG
226	EI9FVB	133	EI6FR (+7)
211	EI8IU	118	EI6HB (+16)
210	EI6IL		Satellite - No Entry
194	EI1DG		15m
173	EI6HB (+21)	270	EI7BA (+12)
170	EI4HH	230	EI6FR (+9)
151	EI9E (+3)	229	EI9FBB
140	EI4GXB	193	EI3IO
134	EI9HQ	173	EI4BZ
133	EI7GY	165	EI8GS
129	EI5GUB	148	EI2JD
128	EI8HA	138	EI6IZ (+19)
117	EI3HA	124	EI9FVB
111	EI5IF	118	EI6HB (New)
103	EI6AL	111	EI9E
102	EI2GLB	109	EI3GV
101	EI7JQ	105	EI9JF
100	EI4HQ		12m
304	EI6S	222	EI7BA (+32)
251	EI7BA (+19)	172	EI9FBB
206	EI9FBB		10m
111	EI5IF	253	EI3IO
103	EI6AL	222	EI7BA (+18)
102	EI2JD	158	EI4BZ
118	EI6FR (+10)	158	EI6FR (+4)
115	EI6IZ (+11)	157	EI9FBB
113	EI4BZ	144	EI7GL
40m		144	EI8GS
348	EI6S	134	EI2JD
345	EI7CC	128	EI4GK
219	EI9FBB	102	EI9E
338	EI2GS		6m
334	EI8EM	160	EI3IO
331	EI8AR	111	EI7GL
320	EI6FR (+2)	102	EI9FBB
320	EI7BA (+19)	101	EI3EBB
300	EI8AU		

Members Advertisements

For Sale:

SGC DSP2 Speaker	€60.00
Metron 600W HF mobile Amp	€600.00
Top Ten Devices DXDoubler	€150.00
Heil BM10 Mic/ Headset	€60.00
MFJ 1701 6 way Antenna Switch	€50.00
MFJ 1700 Dual 6 Way Antenna Switch (6 rigs to 6 Antennas)	€70.00
Frequency Counter	€50.00
CT 62 CAT I/F cable	€25.00
Ameritron 811 Amp	€600.00
Buddipole wth extras	€200.00
Kent Dual Paddle	€50.00
MagPad Dual Paddle	€60.00
K1EL Keyer	€50.00
Masterkeyer MK1 Keyer	€125.00
Super CMOS III Keyer	€60.00
Contact John EI7BA on 086-2559441	

For Sale:

Antenna - Cushcraft Boomer (about 25 feet boom)	
424B 70cms Yagi. New in Box	€125.00
Radios - All second hand :-	
Icom IC-2AT H/H + Spare with box & Manual	€100.00
Icom IC-781. Base HF 0-30MHz. Box/Manual....	€2,500.00
Icom IC-9000 Base Rx with manual. No Box.	
0-2000MHz.	Ring for details
Stainless Steel Rope - 55' for tower stay s/h.....	€100.00
Stainless Steel Truss For boom s/h.....	€50.00
Strobe flashing light. New in box. For tower etc	€60.00
Heathkit Morse Code Oscillator s/h.....	€50.00
Radio Works 1-1 4kW centre balun New	€100.00
Drake High Pass Filter TV-300-HF 0-52MHz	
300 Ohms	€20.00
Co-Ax Cable €5.00 to €10.00 per metre	
1/2" Heliax new & secondhand;	
7/8" in 50 and 75 Ohm	
LDF in 75 Ohm and 50 Ohm.	
50 Ohm 110 feet with plugs	€200.00
40m Coils for vertical and beam antennas etc.....	€25.00
40' up & over tower with very heavy duty winch	
with uprights. Buyer collects	€1,500.00
Very Heavy Duty Winch	€250.00
220-110v Transverter. New in box. 200w. 50Hz	€50.00
5 Amp PSU. New in box	€55.00
4 Amp PSU. Secondhand	€35.00
DC-DC Converter 24/12 Volt 10A. New in Box ...	€5.00
Alloy Tubes in round and square in most sizes	
in inch and centimetre. Ring for details.	
Midland Alan CB, 48 Excel multi voltage 12 - 24v	
40 ch AM/FM.....	€10.00
SGC 231 Smart tuner 1-60MHz 100w + SGC	
Smart Lock PRO Remote Control	€250.00
Telex Hy-Gain Ham-IV Rotator + Taitlwister	
Control Box. No box or manual	€450.00
Garmin GPS Map 76S with box/manuals	€150.00
Ring Eddie EI3FFB on 086-8224992	



Bangor and District ARS Radio and Computer Rally

Saturday 2nd July 2011

Donaghadee Community Centre
Donaghadee, County Down BT21

Starts at 12 noon Admission £2.00

Plenty of attractions include : Special interest stands, bring and buy, ballot and a good selection of radio and computer traders

Information and a map is available at our website www.bdars.com

Contact Bill GI4AAM for further details:
Tel: 028 9181 6707
Email: bill.langtry@btinternet.com

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

The Shop



**10% discount for
IRTS members
on Amateur Radio Books**

Try it today
www.irtsshop.com

Carrickfergus Amateur Radio Group

All new and existing members are welcome to attend Club meetings on Tuesday evenings in the Downshire Community School, Carrickfergus from 7:00pm onwards.

The new Carrickfergus Amateur Radio Group (CARG) web site address is:

gi0lix.mywebcommunity.org

Radio News Deadline

Noon on Thursdays

**Input to newsteam@irts.ie
or urgent news by phone to
Aidan Noone EI7JC 085-7100511**



Irish Radio Transmitters Society 2011 Annual General Meeting Weekend



Sat/Sun. 26th/27th March 2011

Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Annual Dinner on Saturday evening

Talk-in
S22 and on
Limerick Repeater
R5 145.725

**Rally Sunday morning
1100**

HamRadio Deluxe
Seminar
by Terry G4POP
1200 Sunday

**AGM Sunday afternoon
1400**

**For traders and bring & buy tables ring Dermot Gleeson EI2GT on 087 2352028.
Dinner Tickets from Tony Condon EI2AW
Full details on www.irts.ie**

Hosted by: Limerick Radio Club

**Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club
Annual Rally
The Share Holiday Village,
Lisnaskea,
County Fermanagh
BT92 0EQ**

Sunday 17th April 2011

Bring & Buy, Caravan Park.
Access from Lough Erne/Shannon Waterway
Food and parking on site

Doors open 1130

Further details from Iain:
Telephone: 028 66326693
iain@learc.eu

<http://www.loughneradioclub.co.uk/>

**Lagan Valley ARS
32nd Annual Radio Rally**

Saturday, 19 March 2011.

**Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road,
Hillsborough,
County Down, BT26 6AR**

Grand Raffle on door tickets

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Car parking available. Doors open at 1100

Admission Fee: Only £3:00

Information from:
Jim Henry, GI0DVU
Telephone 048 9266 2270
See gi0dvu.co.uk/lisburnrally.aspx
or
MI0BPB, GI4LKG both QTHR.

JBT Trading

Limavady
N. Ireland

We Specialise in supplying New & Used
Amateur Radio Equipment



ALL MAJOR CREDIT
CARDS ACCEPTED

Tel: 028 7776 5045

Mob: 07740721770

Email: jimbob@mi0jbt.co.uk

Web: www.mi0jbt.co.uk

[sales@niradios.co.uk](http://www.niradios.co.uk)

www.niradios.co.uk

Please note: I can still be contacted at jimbobtraynor@utvinternet.com



IC-R1500

Receiver/Scanner

£275.00

Used: Boxed etc



FT-2800

£100.00

VHF Transceiver.

Used: With manual, power lead and microphone.



Realistic 2035

£175.00

Used: Realistic 2035 Receiver/Scanner: 25-520/760-1300 MHz AM/FM/WFM



IC-R8500

£699.00

Used HF/VHF/UHF Receiver/Scanner.
0.1-2000MHz
1000 Memories



MFJ 969

£130.00
1.8 - 54 MHz

ATU with 4:1 balun



IC-706 MK2 G

£499.00

Used HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver



IC-7400

£899.00

HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver
Used: Mint, asnew

New Equipment

All makes/models supplied
at the keenest prices



IC-756 PRO2

£1,100.00

160m-10m + 6m

Used, Mint, as new



TM-V71E

£225.00



Used: VHF/UHF Transceiver. Only 6 months old

IC-7000

HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver

£825.00

Used: Mint, as new.

160m to 70cm



UBC-785XLT

£175.00

Used: UBC-785XLT with PSU and manual. Frequency range:
25-512/806-1300 MHz



AT-180

£325.00

New: Automatic Antenna Tuner. 10m-6m Rating 120w
Voltage 13.8VDC



FT-1000 MK 5 Field

£995.00

Used in good condition,
original box, manuals etc.



FC-800

£225.00

FC-800 Used as new with lead



Always wanted - cash waiting.
Good clean secondhand equipment,
radios, scanners, receivers, aerials
or any radio related items
Top prices paid

South East Communications

Amateur Radio
Marine VHF
Shortwave Receivers

Scanning Receivers
GPS Systems



Gary O'Hanlon,
Ashbury House,
Dunmore East,
Co. Waterford.
Tel: 051-385853
087-2513772

Used Equipment - All prices for straight sales

Alinco DJG7E Tri band handheld, 2m/70cm/1.2GHz	€49.00
Alinco DM330MW 30Amp Switch Mode Power supply. New	€139.00
Antron 99 Fibreglass Base Antenna, 10/12m.....	€99.00
AOR 5000 Base Receiver. 0-2600MHz, All Mode	€199.00
AOR SDU 5000. Spectrum Display Unit. As New condition	€499.00
MFJ 949E. 300 watt manual ATU 0-30MHz. New	€209.00
Diamond SX-200 Power/SWR Meter. 0-200MHz	€79.00
Daiwa CN-801. New. 2kw SWR/Power Meter.	
Auto calibrate 1.8-200 MHz	€149.00
Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe	€99.00
Icom IC-91 Dual Band Handheld with D-Star Fitted	€249.00
Icom IC-821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multi-mode,	€99.00
Icom IC-7200 HF + 6m with rack handles.....	€75.00
Icom SP-20. Matching speaker for Icom 775 etc.....	€49.00
Icom UT-106 DSP Unit for IC-706 etc.....	€75.00
JRC-NRD545. Top class receiver. Boxed. As new condition	€1,199.00
Kent Brass Straight Morse Key. Boxed, New.....	€99.00
Kenwood TS-2000. HF/6/2/70cms. Boxed. As new.....	€1,199.00
Kenwood TS-570DGE. HF rig with DSP AUTO ATU.....	€799.00
Kenwood TS-850SAT. Auto ATU. Mint, Boxed	€799.00
Linear Amp UK. 700w 70cm Amp. Bargain ... Now	€99.00
Linear Amp UK 800 watt HF Amplifier.....	€899.00
MFJ 934 Antenna Tuner/artificial ground	€99.00
MFJ 925 Mighty Mite compact auto ATU. IC706 size. New	€225.00
MFJ-994. 600 Watt Intellituner. Boxed as new	€299.00
Solar Panels. 2.4 watts. Comes with cigar charger & croc clips.....	€99.00
Watson 22 Amp 0-15v PSU. Special offer - New!	€99.00
Yaesu FC-20 Auto ATU for FT-847 etc.	€75.00
Yaesu FT-890 0-30 MHz Auto ATU	€49.00
Yaesu FT-920AF HF + 6m Base Station Auto ATU, DSP	€899.00
Yaesu FT-2000. Boxed. As new. 12 months old	€1,799.00
Yaesu VX5R. Tri band Handheld. Boxed. Good Condition	€99.00
Yaesu VX7R. Tri Band Waterproof Handie. Extras fitted	€79.00
Yaesu FT-950. Boxed as new. 15 months old.	€all
Icom IC-746.+6+2m. 100 w on all bands.....	€99.00
MFJ 986 3kW ATU.....	€49.00
Icom IC-718. Compact 100w HF Rig with DSP unit fitted	€495.00
Ameritron 811 HXCE. 8000w Amplifier. As new. 10 hours use	€899.00
SGC MAC200. Auto ATU. 5 outputs	€249.00
AirNav 3D Radar Box. Used.....	€99.00
Watson WM2000 Top Class Desk Mic.....	€109.00

**Kenwood
TS-590**
€1,699.00



Read the fantastic reviews

Yaesu FT-5000.
Yaesu's dream machine now available.



3 Day lead time.
We will not be
beaten on price
Call now!

C.O.D. - Next Day Delivery

www.sec.ie

Base & Handheld Scanner Sale All with 30 day warranty When they are gone the're gone!

AOR 7030 Award winning Rx. 0-30MHz Boxed/mint	€449.00
AOR-8200 MkII. 0-260-0 MHz. All mode handheld	€199.00
Fairhaven RD500VX. Top of the range base/mobile receiver.	
With 4 antenna sockets	€199.00
Icom ICR-10 0-1300MHz All mode handheld scanner	€49.00
JRC-NRD545. Top class receiver. Boxed. As new condition	€1,199.00
Uniden UBC244CLT Base Scanner	€89.00
ICR2. Shirt pocket size scanner. 0-1300MHz.....	€89.00
Alinco DJX3E. Shirt pocket size scanner. 0-1300MHz.....	€89.00
Alinco DJX30. Shirt pocket size scanner. 0-1300MHz	€129.00
GRE PSR295. 1000 Memories. Handheld scanner.....	€99.00
Yupiteru MVT7200. All Mode, 1000 Ch, 0-1650MHz	€49.00
Yupiteru MVT7100. All Mode, 1000 Ch, 0-1650MHz	€49.00

**Icom
IC-7800**



Rare opportunity to acquire this top class radio
in as new condition. Boxed, manuals etc.
Save almost €4,000 on the new price. Now €6,750.00



TYT TH-UVF1.
Latest dual band
handheld
from China.
Drop in charger
€25.00



Eton Satellite 750

New Top Class S/W Rx
(replacing the Grundig Satellite)
Price ...€375.00

Special Offer!
100m drum of
RG213 Mil Spec
€149.00

Including
delivery
anywhere
26 counties



Special Offer
Diamond BB7V
6.5m vertical
2 - 30MHz.
No radials
€399.00

We stock a wide range of used equipment and a full range of
new Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, Alinco, Watson, Cushcraft,
MFJ, Diamond, Uniden Radios and Accessories.